

## Israel: Settlers can stay in Arab Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel's cabinet said Sunday Jewish settlers can stay in houses they occupied in Arab East Jerusalem until the high court makes a final ruling on the matter. The decision comes just two days before Arabs and Israelis are due to resume peace talks in Washington and despite recommendations from Israel's attorney general and the police who say the settlers are a security threat. The settlers occupied the houses in the densely Palestinian nationalist neighbourhood of Silwan in October but were opposed by police who said they could not protect them. A deal was struck allowing occupation of one house while the government and high court decided the case. "The cabinet decided that any settlers that rent or can prove legal ownership of the house may stay there without disruption, in coordination with the police," minister without portfolio Rehavam Zeevi told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting. Justice ministry spokeswoman Ety Eshed said the high court would rule on the matter on Dec. 16.

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## House to take confidence vote on government Sunday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament will take a vote of confidence on the government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Sunday, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Petra said the decision was taken at a meeting Sunday during which a letter from Sharif Zeid was read out. The letter requested that the speech from the throne by His Majesty King Hussein opening the regular parliament session on Dec. 1 be considered the policy statement of the government.

The Upper and Lower House of Parliament Saturday presented their respective replies to the King's speech, broadly welcoming the government policy and calling on the King to continue peace efforts in close coordination with the Palestinian people.

While the reply to the speech by the Lower House was seen as an implicit endorsement of the ongoing American-led peace process, several members of the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood as well as leftist groups are expected to bring up the issue during the vote-of-confidence session, Parliament observers said.

However, the "observers added, there was little doubt that the government would receive a vote of confidence from the House.

According to experts on the Jordanian Constitution, if the King delivers a speech from the throne opening the regular session of Parliament at a time when the serving government has not gone before the House for a confidence vote with a policy and programme statement, the King's speech will be considered as the government's statement and Parliament should take a confidence vote on the government on the basis of the King's statement.

The constitutional provision was applied by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid, who formed his government on Nov. 21 and did not have the chance to go before Parliament which was at that time in recess.

### Committees formed

In Sunday's session, the Lower House also approved the formation of four permanent committees — dealing with foreign affairs, legal affairs, finance and administrative issues. It stipulated that no deputy could be a member of more than one permanent committee and one sub-committee.

The House ruled that any committee member who fails to attend three meetings without any valid justification or reason will automatically lose his membership in that particular committee.

The sub-committees deal, each on its own, with public freedoms and people's rights, agriculture, education, health, the environment and Palestine and the occupied territories.

During Sunday's session, the House referred a revised income tax law, a revised defence law and a revised civil service retirement law to the Legal Committee.

The draft budget for fiscal year 1992 was sent to the Finance Committee. The JD107-million deficit draft budget was sent to Parliament last month by the outgoing government of Prime Minister Taher Masi.

Attending Sunday's session of the Lower House were Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thagoun Hadawi and several members of the Council of Ministers.

# King: Multilaterals could help bilateral negotiations succeed

## Israel's claim of having complied with 242 is 'ridiculous'

### Wider vision essential to ensure comprehensive solution

### Only democracy can guarantee stability and security

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is pinning high hopes on the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace talks since it believes that progress reached in discussions there would be highly instrumental in achieving success in the Arab-Israeli bilateral talks, His Majesty King Hussein has said.

The King, in an interview with United News of India (UNI), also expressed confidence that Syria will participate in the multilateral talks, scheduled for Jan. 28-29 in Moscow, despite its position that such talks would be fruitless unless progress was made in the bilateral talks, scheduled to resume in Washington on Tuesday.

"I believe that it is right now a question of approach... based on

different reasons," the King said. "My own belief and feeling and that of my country is that what can be achieved on the multilateral level will not only increase the chances of success on the bilateral level but will also be an added incentive to deal with matters on a much broader scale than was ever conceived..." he told UNI.

Thorny issues that are of common concern to every country in the Middle East — water, disarmament, cross-border movement of people, the environment, refugees and joint economic ventures to address some of the key problems — are expected to be discussed at the Moscow forum. In addition to all the parties directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the conference will be attended by the U.S. and the Soviet Union — the co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process — the Gulf Arab states, the Maghreb Arab states, Yemen, Japan, the European Community and Canada.

In the interview, conducted before agreement was reached in Washington on the resumption of the bilateral talks after Israel stayed away from the appointed Dec. 4 date, the King said the whole world was "waiting to understand this (Israeli) approach and attitude and to be satisfied with some explanation."

The King challenged Israel to "prove that they are not afraid of peace" by entering into substantive discussions to resolve the root conflict and voiced impatience over the Jewish state's strategy and tactics in the negotiations.

By the same token, the King also reaffirmed opposition to Israel's quest to shift the venue for bilateral talks to the Middle East prior to reaching substantial progress in negotiations. Citing the Israeli argument that "have them (the talks) in the area," the King said, "Have them how? How can the Palestinians negotiate under Israeli occupation? Does it sound feasible in terms of the Geneva con-

ventions or any other norms?... "The important thing is to make progress... to prove that if people are not afraid of war they are not afraid of peace. Here is the chance: Let them prove they are not afraid of peace."

"I hope we will get on with it and instead of moving from place to place, going on a sight-seeing tour of the world," he said.

The King rejected Israeli assertions that the Jewish state complied with U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 by returning occupied Egyptian territory under the 1979 Camp David Accords as ridiculous since the focus of the 1967 U.N. document was the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as Jerusalem.

"That is ridiculous," he said in his first-ever public comment on the issue. "It was not my great friend President Gamal Abdul Nasser (of Egypt) who went to Washington and the U.N. to formulate 242; it was I."

The King recalled that in his discussion with Mr. Abdul Nasser after the 1967 war, the Egyptian leader's "main concern at that time was the West Bank and Gaza and he put them way beyond the other issues... the Sinai and the Suez Canal."

"... The concern was there of accepting responsibility for what happened in (the war of) 1967 when we lived-up to our commitments as members of the Arab League under the joint defence agreement to face together a war that Israel started on Egypt at that time," the King said. The land-for-peace formula was very clear in resolution 242, the King pointed out. "It was the return of Sinai to Egypt... the West Bank responsibility was mine." (See full comments in the full text of the interview on page 2).

The King conceded that the overall Arab coordination in the ongoing peace process was not of the desired

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## Baker: U.S. committed to peace process, Washington round will be substantive

From Jordan Times Staff Reporters in Washington

IN HIS FIRST major comment on the dispute over the resumption of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks in Washington on Dec. 4, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Sunday that the Bush administration remained committed to the Middle East peace process and the peace negotiations which are now scheduled to begin Tuesday will involve substantive issues.

Mr. Baker, appearing in CBS Television's "Face the Nation" programme, also seemed to assert that the U.S. was playing the role of a honest mediator since "we were not only criticised by the Israeli government; we were criticised rather strongly this week by some of the Arab delegates."

"But that's the role, really, of — I think the role of peacemakers," he said. "And maybe if we're being criticised by both sides, maybe we're doing something right..."

Israel, angry over what it described as American attempts to

dictate terms to the Middle East negotiating parties and apply pressure on Israel, boycotted the Dec. 4 date set by Washington and insisted that it would come to the table only on Dec. 9. (Israeli delegates arrived here Sunday. See story on right).

The joint Jordanian-Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese delegations, which promptly accepted the designated Dec. 4 date and venue, criticised the U.S. for not being firm enough with Israel and also for what were interpreted as American actions designed to placate the Jewish state.

In his CBS interview, Mr. Baker appeared to go out of his way to reaffirm that the U.S. remained a neutral mediator and would not pressure any of the parties involved.

He was asked to comment on an assertion by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that the Arabs believe that Washington was going to "deliver" Israel and that the U.S. had tilted to the Arab side.

The secretary of state, who undertook eight missions to the

Middle East since March to arrange Arab-Israeli peace talks, replied: "I know that the prime minister believes that because we have discussed that. On the other hand, I've made it very clear to him, as we had to the Arabs, that we cannot deliver Israel in that sense — and we would not if we could — that the process that was launched (at the Middle East peace conference) in Madrid (Oct. 30) was a process looking toward direct bilateral negotiations. That is the only way that the parties are going to get to peace, and that's the only way that any agreement that's reached is going to be lasting."

Mr. Baker said he believed that this week's talks in Washington would involve substantial issues. "There've been some private indications that the parties are willing to begin considering and discussing substance. Now, whether that happens is really up to the parties. They may spend some time initially talking about where they will meet next. We don't know."

Following are some of the questions and answers from Sunday's Face the Nation programme:

Bob Schieffer: Welcome to "Face the Nation." I'm Bob Schieffer.

It has been a week of frustrating onepartnership for all parties associated with the Middle East peace talks. While a new date, Tuesday, seems to have been agreed on at last, Israel's no-show last week did not bode well for a congenial dialogue between the delegations.

Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli deputy foreign minister: We're not boycotting the talks, as you well know. We're going to be here as I said, from Monday on.

Mawafik Al Arafat, Syrian delegation spokesman: If the Israelis were really serious and if they desire, really, peace, they will have been present there. Hanaa Ashrawi, spokeswoman for Palestinian delegation: Israel is trying to sabotage the process, not just by such empty gesture and showmanship, but also by carrying out an intensifying iron-fist policy in the occupied territories.

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## Israelis ready for talks Tuesday

WASHINGTON (R) — Israeli negotiators to Middle East peace talks arrived in Washington Sunday, saying they were ready to begin discussing issues at the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict when negotiations begin Tuesday.

"We are ready for progress. We are going to discuss all issues that can be placed on the table whether they are technical or substantive," said Yossi Ben Aharon, director of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office.

"We come here with an open heart and an intention to negotiate with our neighbours directly," he said in a brief arrival statement at Andrews air force base in suburban Maryland.

Arabs and Israelis both seemed eager to put behind them the four weeks of procedural wrangling since inaugural negotiating sessions were held in Madrid following a historic Middle East peace conference.

The clashes over where and when to meet ended quickly when both sides indicated over the weekend they would attend negotiations at the U.S. State Department Tuesday morning.

Abdul Salam Al Majali, the head of the Jordanian delegation to the talks, told reporters after an Arab coordination meeting on Saturday that the Arab side had informed the American sponsors of their intentions.

"They know we will all be there on Tuesday," he said. An Israeli official told reporters in Washington Friday Israel was ready to table a proposal to grant Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip self-rule.

The proposal, under which Israel would retain control of land and security affairs, was unlikely to satisfy the Palestinians. But at least it would get the talks on to substance and away from the procedural wrangling and mutual name calling of the past month.

Mr. Shamir repeated Saturday Israel was not interested in trading occupied land for peace.

"We must not mislead the Arabs... our line is to work towards peace and maintain the land of Israel," he said.

The United States, mediating between the parties, invited them to resume talks last Wednesday. But Israel, angry that its demand to hold negotiations in the Middle East was overruled, boycotted the session, hoping to demonstrate that it would not accept American dictates in the peace process.

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## Libyan judge says Lockerbie suspects could face death

TRIPOLI (R) — A judge questioning two Libyan suspects in the Lockerbie bombing case said Sunday they faced the death penalty if convicted by a Libyan court.

Investigating Judge Ahmad Al Taher Al Zawi told reporters that security agents Abdul Baset Ali Mohammad Al Megrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah were under house arrest.

He said they could be tried in Libya — but not elsewhere — on allegations by Britain and the United States of planting explosives aboard a Jumb Jet, Pan Am Flight 103, which exploded over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in December 1988, killing 270 people.

Mr. Zawi said a guilty verdict could bring sentences of death on the two whose extradition was wanted by London and Washington for trial in either country.

Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim Mohammad Beshari said in the Senegalese capital Dakar that Libya would put the two on trial — a move that Britain promptly rejected.

He said that handing them over to the West was incompatible with Libyan sovereignty.

The judge's remarks at a Tripoli news conference suggested that a legal decision to try the men still awaited examination of the evidence against them.

The judge, who has begun questioning the suspects, said

they were under house arrest and heavily-guarded, to prevent them leaving the country.

He said if Libya's investigation pointed to their guilt, the two men would be put on trial here under a law that carried the death penalty.

The judge also ruled out handing over the suspects to Britain or any other country for trial. "Libyan laws stipulate that any national who commits a crime abroad and returns to the country must be tried by Libyan courts," he said.

Mr. Zawi said he has asked the British and U.S. judicial authorities through diplomatic channels to supply him with all the evidence as he had only received the charges.

The Libyan judge said he had asked British and U.S. judicial authorities to issue an order allowing him to study the findings which led to their charges.

He said he also proposed a meeting of legal experts from the three countries to help his investigation.

He said he had received no answer to any of his proposals.

Mr. Zawi said he had asked the Maltese government for permission to carry out an investigation in Malta because the British and U.S. charges were based on evidence obtained from Valletta.

In Dakar, for an Islamic summit, Libya's foreign minister indicated

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## Mass curfew marks intifada anniversary

### Israeli undercover killings of Arabs rise, human rights group reports

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel combined more than half a million Palestinians to their homes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Sunday ahead of Monday's fourth anniversary of the Palestinian uprising, the army said.

Police said no Palestinians from the occupied territories would be allowed into occupied Jerusalem from early Monday morning until further notice.

Almost two million Palestinians live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The army listed several towns, villages and neighbourhoods whose residents were under curfew.

The rest of the population was free to move around the occupied territories or enter Israel but was barred from occupied Jerusalem.

The West Bank town of Ramallah and neighbouring Al Bireh were under a strict curfew for the eighth day on Sunday, imposed after an Israeli was shot dead in an ambush last week, residents said.

An Israeli human rights group said Sunday soldiers disguised as Arabs killed about a third of the 91 Palestinians who died at the hands of Israeli troops this year, a marked increase over previous years.

B'tselem released a two-year study of rights violations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to coincide with Monday's anniversary.

"During the past year the number of Palestinians killed by special forces, basically soldiers dressing up as Arabs, has increased," said B'tselem official Yuval Ginbar.

"According to the data we have, around a third of those Palestinians killed by Israeli forces in the last year were killed by special units."

He gave no figures. B'tselem said the army did not deny special units were responsible, but told the group the killings were carried out in the context of arrest regulations.

"It must be stressed that these regulations do not allow for the killing of a person," Mr. Ginbar said. "You can catch them, but you cannot slay them."

The army says it has operated undercover units in the occupied territories since before the uprising began in December, 1987. Their members disguise themselves as Arab women and day

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## Slav republics create commonwealth

MOSCOW (R) — The leaders of Russia, Ukraine and Byelorussia said on Sunday the Soviet Union had ceased to exist and created a commonwealth of independent states, TASS news agency said. "We, the Republic of Byelorussia, the Russian Federation and Ukraine... note that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as a subject of international law and a geopolitical reality ceases its existence," they said in a joint accord. The three Slav republics make up 70 per cent of the Soviet population and the bulk of the country's economic might. The agreement appeared to deal a death blow to President Mikhail Gorbachev's attempt to reshape the Soviet Union as a loose confederation or union of sovereign states. The three leaders — Russia's Boris Yeltsin, Byelorussia's Stanislav Shushkevich and Ukraine's Leonid Kravchuk — said their commonwealth was open to all members of the former Soviet Union. "The agreement is open to be joined by all members of the former Soviet Union as well as other states which share the aims and principles of the document," said the agreement, issued by TASS. "Minsk (the capital of Byelorussia) has been chosen as the headquarters of the coordinating organs of the commonwealth."



His Majesty King Hussein is seen off upon his departure for Dakar, Senegal, by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior officials (Petra photo)

## King heads for Dakar to attend OIC summit

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein left for Dakar Sunday to lead the Jordanian delegation to the sixth summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) which will open in the Senegalese capital on Monday.

Accompanying the King were Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Adnan Abu Odeh, the King's advisor Khalid Al Karaki, Upper House of Parliament member Kamel Al Sharif and His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Muhammad, the King's military secretary.

Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, who is already in Dakar attending a ministerial-level meeting to prepare for the summit, will join the delegation.

The King is expected to address the summit on the ongoing Middle East peace process and other developments in the international scene as well as to hold bilateral consultations with fellow Arab and Muslim leaders on ways and means to enhance cooperation, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The King was seen off by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who will serve as Regent during His Majesty's absence — and senior officials.

Petra said the OIC summit will have 56 items on its agenda, ranging from the Palestinian problem, the arms race and Islamic cooperation to Islamic jurisprudence and human rights.

Agencies add from Dakar: Several heads of state of OIC members are staying away from the summit, including Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, Morocco's King Hassan II, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Sudan's Omar Hassan Al Bashir and Libya's Muammar Qadhafi.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was the first leader to land in Dakar.

Iraq is boycotting the gathering altogether while Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was due in Dakar Sunday evening.

Iranian and Palestinian officials sought to calm tempers Sunday after a row at the foreign ministers' meeting in which Tehran accused the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) of selling out at Middle East peace talks.

Delegates said PLO envoy Farouk Kaddoumi angrily rebuked a senior Iranian delegate who criticised the PLO for joining

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## Baker declares Soviet Union dead and warns of conflict

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Sunday declared the Soviet Union dead but warned there was a serious danger that its disintegration could explode into violence involving nuclear weapons.

Mr. Baker, interviewed on CBS Television, pronounced the Bush administration's death knell on its former superpower arch-enemy in a remarkably matter of fact tone of voice.

"The Soviet Union as we've known it no longer exists," Mr. Baker said.

But he said it was still far from clear what would replace it and there was a serious risk of a civil war similar to that engulfing Yugoslavia with the enormous added risk because of the presence of nuclear weapons.

"We really do run the risk of seeing a situation created there

not unlike what we've seen in Yugoslavia with nukes — with nuclear weapons thrown in," Mr. Baker said.

"That could be an extraordinarily dangerous situation for Europe and for the rest of the world and indeed for the United States," he said.

Mr. Baker's statement put the seal on a decisive shift in the Bush administration's policy towards the Soviet Union within the past month away from the central Soviet government based on the Kremlin and towards the republics.

Mr. Bush appears to have lost hope that President Mikhail Gorbachev could hold the Soviet Union together after watching power drain from his hands into those of Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and other republic leaders.

## Bonn rejects deal to free 2 German hostages

BEIRUT (R) — A Lebanese Muslim leader says two German hostages, the last Westerners held in Lebanon, will be freed this month in a deal involving two Lebanese jailed in Germany.

But Bonn denies any deal to get back its nationals by freeing the two Lebanese brothers.

The leader also said on Sunday Israeli airman Ron Azari, captured in South Lebanon in 1986 and considered a trump card in any exchange between pro-Iranian militants and Israel, was in Syrian hands.

Bonn said it had no indication of moves to free hostages Thomas Kemptner and Heinrich Striebig and stood by a refusal to swap the two Lebanese, Mohammad Ali and Abbas Hamadi, for them.

"There is a deal regarding the German captives and the Hamadi brothers," said the leader, who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity.

"As a result of this deal the hostages will be released before the end of the year," the source said.

"After some time, let's say a month, German authorities will

find a face-saving way to resolve the issue of the Hamadi brothers," he added.

Mr. Striebig, 50, and Mr. Kemptner, 28, were kidnapped in South Lebanon in May 1989. Abbas and Mohammad Ali Hamadi were jailed in Germany in 1988 and 1989 for hijacking, kidnapping and murder.

Asked about the report that the Germans could be freed this month, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Bonn: "We have no new indications (on this). We stand by what we said on Friday."

The government said on Friday it would not free the Hamadis in exchange for the hostages but it was still optimistic that the Germans would soon end more than two years in captivity.

U.N. negotiator Giamdomenico Pico, who mediated the release of nine Western hostages in Lebanon since August, discussed the German captives with government officials in Bonn on Thursday after meeting their kidnappers.

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## King: Democracy only means for stability

Other Carriers (Terminal 2)			
12:20	..... Cairo (MS)		
13:00	..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (AF)		
13:00	..... Paris (AF)		
<b>DEPARTURES</b>			
<b>Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights</b>			
<b>(Terminal 1)</b>			
06:15	..... Beirut (RJ)		
11:30	..... Montreal New		
11:40	..... Istanbul (RJ)		
12:15	..... London (RJ)		
12:45	..... Frankfurt (RJ)		
13:00	..... Cairo (RJ)		
13:40	..... Yerevan (RJ)		
14:30	..... Seoul		
20:30	..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)		
	Banana (Minkumar)	500 / 450	
	Banana	350 / 350	
	Beans	850 / 650	
	Cabbage	160 / 120	
	Caiflower	220 / 170	
	Cucumbers (large)	180 / 120	
	Cucumbers (small)	200 / 120	
	Eggplant	280 / 220	
	Garlic	800 / 700	
	Grapes	900 / 800	
	Onions	500 / 400	
	Lezard	180 / 120	
	Marrow (large)	160 / 120	
	Marrow (small)	350 / 300	
	Okra	850 / 750	
	Onions (dry)	170 / 120	
	Pepper (black)	220 / 200	
	Pepper (sweet)	450 / 400	
	Potato	300 / 250	
	Sage	600 / 500	
	Spinach	220 / 180	
	Sweet onion	220 / 250	
	Tomatoes	100 / 80	



## Number of crimes occurring in November increases, PSD reports

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 2,368 crimes were committed in Jordan in the past month against 1,568 crimes in November 1990, according to a statistical bulletin released by the Public Security Department (PSD) Sunday.

The bulletin revealed that 339, or 14.3 per cent, of the total crimes caused bodily injuries. Juvenile delinquency cases and robberies and thefts accounted for the other 2029.

According to the bulletin, 46.6 per cent of the total crimes were committed in the Amman region, followed by Irbid with 18.2 per cent, Zarqa with 14.7 per cent and Ajlun with 5.1 per cent.

The bulletin said 602 robberies were committed last month, 67.7 per cent of which took place in the Amman Governorate, followed by Irbid with 246 and

Zarqa with 21. In all, the number of people involved in the crimes of last month was 603, including 28 women and 63 non-Jordanians, according to the PSD bulletin, which also noted that 51 of the culprits were below 18 years of age.

As to pre-meditated murders, there were six incidents last month compared to 12 in November of last year, according to the bulletin. The murders were due to feuds, honour and robberies, the bulletin found.

Also last month, there were nine attempted murders, eight of which were discovered by the police, the bulletin said. It said last month there were five suicides three of whom were young people between the ages of 18 to 27.

The bulletin said that the suicides were motivated by mental illness, failure in school examinations and family quarrels. But, the bulletin noted, last month witnessed 43 attempted suicides, 12 of which were in Amman.

The police filed reports for about 49 cases of fraud and embezzlements in Jordan last month, the bulletin noted. It said that 51 persons were involved in the fraud cases, two of whom were women.

The PSD bulletin revealed the occurrence of 32 firing incidents resulting in the death of three people and the injury of 61 others. The firings occurred during celebrations in weddings and other happy occasions. According to the bulletin, only 28 were cited for this act.



INTIFADA CELEBRATIONS — University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh Sunday opened the week-long activities to mark the Palestinian uprising's 4th anniversary. The week-long events include a number of exhibitions, bazaars and book exhibitions. The exhibitions include pictures and posters depicting the Palestinian people's struggle and their suffering under Israeli occupation in addition to Palestinian folkloric items, a cartoon corner and handicrafts. The inauguration ceremony was attended by university Vice-President for Administrative Affairs Subhman Arabiyat, the dean of student affairs and a number of university staff and students.

## Workshop calls for addressing needs of special children

AMMAN (Petra) — A regional training workshop on students with special needs started here Sunday with representatives from Bahrain, Iraq, Oman, Syria and Jordan.

Addressing the opening session, Ministry of Education Secretary General Munther Al Masri, who deputised for the deputy prime minister and education minister, said the traditional concept of disability should be reconsidered if educational systems are to meet the needs of children.

This, he said, implies that methods of running and organising schools, the curricula and the examinations, the design of the school buildings and the preparation of teachers should all be thoroughly reviewed to ensure that they meet the educational needs of children.

Dr. Masri noted that the Education Ministry seeks to provide education for all and is currently considering a number of programmes and procedures to ensure that special attention is directed to talented children and to those suffering from learning difficulties.

He pointed out that a special technical committee was formed to formulate the general policies designed to meet the needs of school children.

The weeklong workshop, organised by the Ministry of Education in cooperation with the regional office of the United Nations Educational Bureau in the Arab States (UNEDBAS) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), aims at briefing participants on the best methods of improving teachers' performance and assisting them in meeting the special needs of children suffering from learning difficulties.

UNESCO's regional representative, Salah Yacoub, said the U.N. agency always been keen on maintaining close cooperation with member states and providing them with the technical expertise that could help them achieve their national goals of providing equal chances of learning for all students.

Dr. Yacoub said that identifying individual student needs in the classrooms was probably one of the most important issues because this process requires special skills that are rarely available in developing countries. He added that UNESCO has supported, since 1983, projects designed to direct attention to children with special needs in normal classes or the category of students which it described as the invisible group, which has special needs.

## Lower House commends Palestinians on fourth anniversary of intifada

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday issued a statement paying tribute to the Palestinian people under Israeli rule who are waging an uprising designed to achieve liberation and restoration of Arab rights in Palestine.

The statement, issued on the eve of the Palestinian intifada's fourth anniversary, expressed full backing for the Palestinian people's struggle to end the occupation, halt the Israeli settlement building programme and achieve the withdrawal of all occupied Israeli forces from Arab lands.

The statement pledged continued assistance to the Palestinian people in all forms and at all levels until the land of Palestine is liberated and the suffering of Palestinians end.

"As the intifada enters its fifth year, the oppressed people are more determined than ever before to resist military occupation and end repression," said the statement. It expressed belief that the long and bloody struggle of the Palestinian people and their sacrifices would bring victory for the rightful owners of the land.

On the eve of the intifada's fourth anniversary, the Committee for the Support of the Palestinian uprising organised a public rally at the Professional Association Complex in Amman during which representatives of various political groups delivered addresses. They discussed the long struggle of the Palestinians for independence.

Among the key speakers at the rally held Saturday evening was Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, who stressed the need for Palestine and Jordan to forge a confederal state, noting that the Palestinians will continue their intifada to regain their rights and their homeland including Arab Jerusalem.

Sheikh Sayeh stressed the importance of unity between the Arab people west and east of the River Jordan.

According to the PNC speaker, 1,350 Palestinian martyrs and 120,000 injured people have resulted from the confrontation between the Palestinian people and the occupation authorities over

the past four years. He saluted the steadfast people of Palestine and emphasised continued support by the committee in Jordan.

Among the other speakers was Dr. Mamdouh Al Abbadi, the committee's secretary general who urged the Arab people in general and Jordanians in particular to provide material and moral support for the intifada. Dr. Abbadi said that the committee, which started its collections with JD 60 at the onset of the intifada, has by now collected a total of JD5 million, JD4.3 million of which were spent for the benefit of the Palestinian people. He said that during 1991 alone the committee raised JD1 million in financial donations in Jordan.

The mayors of Karak and Salt also delivered speeches on the occasion. The organisers announced week-long events to be held in Jordan to mark the anniversary. These events, starting Sunday, will include seminars, exhibitions and a Palestinian folkloric song festival with the proceeds benefiting the people of the intifada.

## Health Ministry allocates JD 46.336 m for improving, expanding hospitals

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cabinet has approved the building of annexes and new units at hospitals and health centres in Jordan to cope with the growing demand on medical services, according to Dr. Mustafa Al Barmawi, the director of the Health Ministry's Hospitals Department.

Dr. Barmawi said that expansions will be at Al Bashir Hospital in Amman, the government hospitals at Tafleh, Mafrq and Salt and one health centre.

The Health Ministry has allocated JD 46.336 million to spend on hospitals during 1992, up from JD 33.5 million in fiscal budget 1991, Dr. Barmawi said.

The budget will cover expansion projects, furnishings and supplying the new units with medical equipment and medical staff.

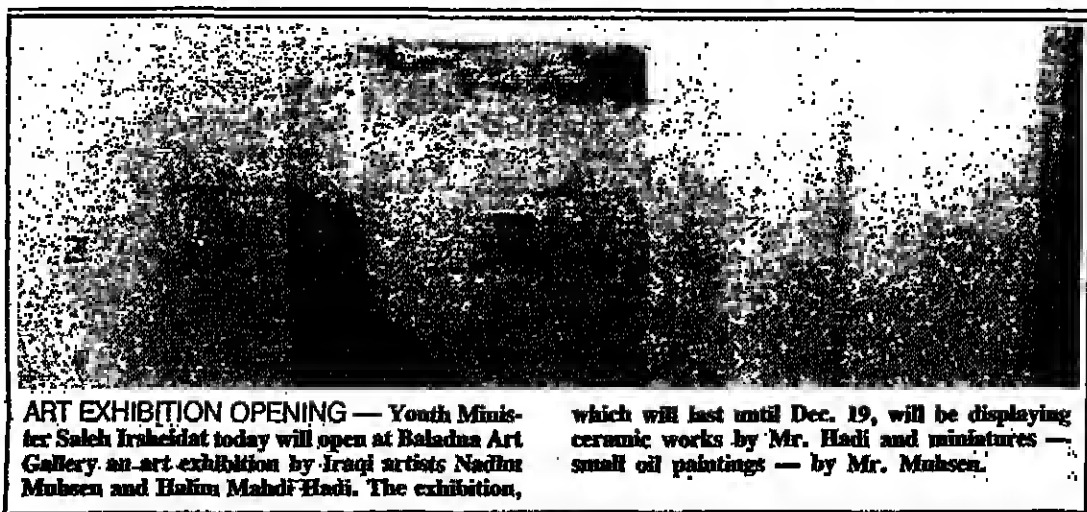
A total of JD 5.5 million, he said, will cover the cost of building and furnishing the annexes to the Tafleh Hospital, raising its capacity by 110 beds, and the King Hussein Hospital in Salt, raising its capacity by 95 beds. In addition, capacity at Al Bashir Hospital will be increased by 136 beds and Mafrq Hospital by 50 beds. The Maadi Health Centre will be transformed into a 20-bed hospital.

He said that JD 4.74 million

have been allocated for the construction of hospitals at Kura and Ruseifeh and a delivery and maternity unit at the Maan Hospital.

According to Dr. Barmawi, the ministry has allocated funds for the employment of 750 new doctors and health workers next year as part of the expansions.

He said that a JD 2 million allocation was made to cover the deficit in previous tenders for the purchase of drugs made during 1991. According to Dr. Barmawi, the expansion in the health services sector was needed because of the influx of 300,000 expatriates from the Gulf.



ART EXHIBITION OPENING — Youth Minister Salah Traheidi today will open at Baladna Art Gallery an art exhibition by Iraqi artists Nadim Mubara and Haidi Mahdi Eladi. The exhibition,

which will last until Dec. 19, will be displaying ceramic works by Mr. Haidi and miniatures — small oil paintings — by Mr. Mubara.

## music review

### Mozart memorial: A varied programme by young, talented performers

By Jean Claude Elias  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, an exceptional Mozart memorial piano recital took place on Saturday at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Rula Camran Nabeel, a leading Jordanian pianist, used an original formula to present an attractive programme of Mozart piano compositions. Avoiding long and un-discontinued series of pieces patched together without obvious link and played by the same performer, she asked some of her young students to open the evening with easy but pleasant pieces by the master.

Tula Tutunji, 11, played a charming Anglaise in D-minor with enough style, expression and talent to belie her young age. She was followed by Her Royal Highness Princess Fahreissa Ra'ad, also aged 11, who interpreted a Minuet in F-major with grace and assurance, perfectly illustrating the result that can be obtained when both teacher and student are talented people.

These two short pieces written by Mozart at an early age and played by very young pianists set the chronological path that Miss Nabeel was following to take her audience through a brief and intelligently chosen story of the life of the great composer. Between performances, short and timely explanations, never turning into speeches, were offered to the audience and definitely helped create the appropriate atmosphere for the memorial.

The second and probably biggest surprise of the recital came when Tareq Y. Younis, 16, also a Jordanian student of Miss Nabeel's, was introduced and performed two four-hand sonatas with her: in C-major KV194 and in D-major KV381. The levels of musicality and technical capability that the young man has shown kept many people in the audience dreaming about an extremely brilliant future career for him. The second sonata, obviously



Rula Camran Nabeel, using an attractive formula and young talent, presented a poignant memorial to Mozart Saturday at the Royal Cultural Centre (Photo by Jean-Claude Elias)

Rula Nabeel kept the last surprise to the very end by playing a composition by Tareq Younis dedicated to Queen Noor, a fantasia in C-minor. With echoes from Rachmaninov, Arabic melodies and romantic harmonies in it, the Fantasia concluded the evening with a warm note in that marvellous winter night.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of scientific and technical books at the University of Jordan.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by a group of Iraqi artists at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Jumana Al Huseini at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jalal Oreiqat at the Phoenix Art Gallery.
- ★ Antique Christmas show of Julia Hamaia at the Marriott Hotel.

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## U.S. must bear responsibility

AFTER SEVERAL days of wrangling over the date on which to resume the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington, it has now been agreed that they will start on Tuesday. This seemingly good news must nevertheless be seen against the ominous backdrop of the events and developments that have taken place since the Dec. 4 date for continuing these talks as set by the U.S. was deliberately and defiantly rejected by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in a calculated move designed to bludge the Americans that it was Israel and not the U.S. that would call the shots. There is, therefore, no escape from viewing the resumption of the Washington talks except in the shadow of the Bush administration's muted response to Israel's arrogance.

For a while there were signals that U.S. President George Bush will stick to his guns and will never abandon ship even at the initial stage of the second round of peace negotiations between Israel and the Arabs. But at last the U.S. swallowed a big insult over this issue. Even more ominous is the implication of such an American change of heart and testifying in resolve to see through what is essentially a U.S.-brokered peace talks on the Middle East. No wonder Israel saw in the U.S. subdued reaction to its defiance a big victory. Israel Police Minister Ronni Milo, a close ally and confidant of Shamir, was jubilant when he announced Friday that his country has scored yet another major victory in the ongoing tug-of-war between Washington and Tel Aviv over the terms and conditions that should govern the peace talks. "We won what we have intended to win," he was quoted as saying. And when the U.S. rejected to intervene forcibly in this matter by castigating Israel over its rude absence from the talks on Dec. 4, the message to the Arab side became clearer by the hour. This led Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi to comment Friday that Washington is "shirking its responsibility as a co-sponsor of the talks by covering up Israeli intransigence." Dr. Ashrawi went on to characterise the American response to the whole matter as a signal that the U.S. is withdrawing from the process. "Israel," she said, "has literally gotten away with murder," and the U.S. response was nowhere near what it should have been. In short, these past events and developments put a big question mark on the role of the U.S. in the ongoing peace process. If future developments corroborate the accumulated evidence that the White House is in fact abandoning ship, then the future for the peace talks between Israel and the Arabs would not lose its glimmer but also all prospects for the peaceful resolution of the region's conflicts. The U.N. must realise by now that the Arabs want to achieve peace with the Israelis through direct negotiations, but that they are apprehensive of the intentions of the Israeli leadership. The Arabs, therefore, insist that the U.S. should play its role as an honest broker with vigour and resolve. The Arabs believe that the U.S. should assume a stand similar to its stand during the Gulf crisis by insisting that Israel should succumb to the dictates of the U.N. Charter, international legitimacy and U.N. Security Council resolutions. Peace between two unequal parties requires a third party with leverage on both. The U.S. is that party. It started this process with goodwill and it must pursue it with the same spirit. Otherwise the process will collapse and the region will head towards chaos, God forbid.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

BY DEFYING the United States and absconding itself from the Washington Middle East peace talks, Israel has no doubt dealt severe blow to the United States and its reputation as the only superpower in the world, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. Israel is making a big show of this success and boasting before the whole world through its media that it had the upper hand and twisted the U.S. arm in this respect, said the paper. But despite this development, the world is still awaiting the implementation of U.N. resolution and waiting to see if the American administration will respect the international legitimacy, as it had been claiming, and waiting to see if it will force Israel to comply with the U.N. resolutions and pull out its forces from occupied lands, the paper pointed out. It said the United States, which staged a devastating war on Iraq and continues to starve its people seems to have forgotten about the international legitimacy and succumbed to Israel's will. The millions of Arab masses follow up the developments in Washington feeling that they are but acts in a theatrical show as they start to realise the facts about the situation, the paper said. It said that slowly but surely the American gambit is brought out to light and U.S.-Israeli manoeuvres are being exposed. It said that the Arabs are now discovering that not just and comprehensive peace can come through the United States and that what is called the international legitimacy is no more than a ploy and the United States had resorted to the U.N. for the sake of crushing Arab might and killing the Arab Nation's children, old people and starving the sick to death.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday put forth a number of proposals designed to make life easier for the capital residents who, he said, form one third of the total population of the Kingdom. Tareq Masarweh said in his column that as most of the economic and industrial businesses are located in Amman, and since most of the people live in the capital, Amman Municipality should direct its attention towards improving services to the inhabitants and expand such services to various areas. The writer said that the municipality should find a solution for the flooding of the central parts of Amman through building a dam at Wadi Abdoun. Such project, he said, is aimed at collecting the water, preventing it from flooding the streets and it can serve as a visitors attraction centre, with its water used for millions of purposes. The writer also suggested that the municipality prevent any move to open streets in the Kamaleh and Um Al Kundum forests, in the western parts of Amman, since they form the only woods around the capital.

### Weekly Political Pulse

## Palestinians between the anvil and the hammer

ACCORDING to the scenario set for the ongoing negotiations between Israel and the various Arab parties, the bilateral talks are projected to arrive at peace treaties between Israel and each of the concerned Arab countries at the end of the long rounds of talks. As for the Palestinian side, what is envisaged to ensue from the Palestinian-Israeli talks is agreement on self-rule, to be followed by parleys on the final status of the Palestinian territory three years after the conclusion of the accord on self-government. The catch in such a negotiating programme is that by the time the situation is ripe for the determination of the status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Arab countries would have had signed and ratified their separate peace deals with Israel. In other words, the Palestinians would be left completely on their own, without even the semblance of Arab solidarity. By the time the future of their territories is put on the negotiating table. Under such unfavourable circumstances, the negotiating Palestinian delegation would be completely at the mercy of Tel Aviv, with little options left for manoeuvring. In the final analysis, the maximum that the Palestinian side can salvage for its people under the conditions that would be prevailing at the end of the three years after autonomy is agreed upon is perhaps an expanded sense of autonomy but never independence and sovereignty.

What could change the picture a bit is the multilateral talks between the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflicts, provided that they could be held in abeyance for as long as necessary and

beyond the three years' time framework earmarked for the autonomy talks for the Palestinian people. But such a scenario is not being contemplated seriously by any of the parties as all sides seem to be in a hurry to deal with the water, environmental or disarmament issues affecting the Middle East region. Under the circumstances, the only thing that may redeem the interests and cause of the Palestinians is to link the envisaged peace accords between Tel Aviv and the Arab capitals with the fate of the West Bank and Gaza Strip at the end of the three years probationary period. At least, the complete normalisations of relations between the Arab states and Israel must be made contingent on the kind of final settlement arrived at between Israel and the Palestinian side.

From Jordan's perspective, Israel's aim for a high level for a normalisation between the two countries must be put on the back burner for as long as necessary and, in any case, not be accomplished before the Palestinians get a fair deal from the Israelis. The Syrians can likewise lend support to the Palestinian side of negotiations with Israel by also hinging the attainment of genuine and bona fide peace instead of just formal peace, on the achievement of an acceptable formula for the Palestinians which stands to accord them control over their destiny as well as over their territories. Towards that end, the Palestinians themselves can also do a lot for their final objective by investing heavily in the success and workability of the initial three-year interim period.

With the kind of enlightened leadership they now have, the stage could be set for arriving at an equitable final solution to their just aspirations.

Yet, all indications point to the probability that Israel under the leadership of the Likud Bloc will never cede an inch of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Labour Party in Israel, on the other hand, is still maintaining a stance that would entertain territorial compromises, but not total withdrawal from the Arab territories. With more than 300,000 Israelis already settling in the Arab occupied territories, there is always the danger that a defunct peace process to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflicts may end up meaning further colonisation of Arab lands and the expulsion of more and more Palestinians to resettle in neighbouring Arab countries, especially Jordan. In this sense, the Palestinians are caught between the hammer and the anvil. If they insist on all their basic and inalienable rights, they risk not only dealing a death blow to the U.S.-brokered peace negotiations, but also the further colonisation of their territories to the point of no return. On the other hand, if they accept less than what they are naturally and logically entitled to, they might as well kiss their aspiration for self-determination and independence goodbye. It requires supreme national responsibility to choose between these two dangers looming on the horizon and whoever takes on that awesome responsibility will probably end up paying dearly for it.

## What does Maastricht EC summit hold for rest of the world?

By Eva Kaluzynska  
Reuters

BRUSSELS — When a dozen European countries get down to mapping out a mighty political and economic bloc this week, the rest of the globe will be watching — and calculating the consequences.

Around the world, the summit on political and monetary union is seen as marking the coming of age of the European Community (EC). Outsiders face the challenge of a formidable force only just realising its strength after 34 years in gestation.

Whatever its immediate outcome, the summit is part of a process that will be hard to stop now. The EC's allies and trade rivals largely welcome the prospect of dealing with a coherent group rather than its individual members.

"The commitment to subordinate national ambitions to some broader ideal has carried the community through one crisis after another, allowing it to emerge from each with its institutions strengthened," said James Dobbin, U.S. ambassador to the EC. Success at the landmark summit in the old Dutch city of Maastricht would pave the way for an economy with far more purchasing power than that of the United States and hefty political clout.

For many European nations, including the fledgling democracies of central and eastern Europe, the community is a powerful magnet, they want to join.



This summit could prove a turning point for several of the candidates most likely to succeed, the wealthy and wealthy highly industrialised democracies.

As far as Austria and Sweden are concerned, the ambitious agreement the community negotiated to create a giant single market with European free trade association nations this year was a prelude to membership. They applied in 1989 and 1991.

Finland, Norway and Switzerland have yet to declare their

ambitions for membership, but are not expected to delay long.

The question for all of them is how fast the EC is prepared to go. Austria and Sweden are hoping their negotiations can start before 1993. They are likely to be disappointed if the summit instructs the European Commission simply to study the impact of enlargement for its next meeting in June.

British Prime Minister John Major will be seeking a declaration pledging the EC's openness

to new members, particularly from east and central Europe.

For those former communist countries such as Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, the EC is a role model, and membership by the year 2000 is their dream. They hope that accords on association which they initiated just days ago have set them on course.

In the meantime, a strengthened community should be more capable of bracing them as they weather the storm of domes-

tic economic reforms.

Those aspects of the process that strengthen the capacity of the community to respond to our needs, all that is welcome. They will make dialogue much easier, and make assistance quicker and more effective," said Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Polish under-secretary of state for assistance and integration.

Behind the leading trio of eastern reformers are Bulgaria, Romania, the three Baltic states and Albania. If and when conflict subsides in Yugoslavia, it too may turn its attention north, as may other newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union, Malta, Turkey and Cyprus also want to join.

For the United States, success at Maastricht would help cement a new relationship with the European Community which it has been cultivating over the past two years. Initial fears in Washington that an enhanced European defence role could undermine NATO have largely been allayed.

A U.S.-EC declaration last year ushered in an era of cooperation with the power that underwrote Western Europe's post-World War II reconstruction and eventual prosperity.

Now the United States wants the EC to take its turn as benefactor.

Observing that the EC had already helped promote prosperity and consolidate democracy in new members Spain, Portugal and Greece, Mr. Dobbin said: "Many now look to the EC to

work the kind of transformation to the east which it has already promoted so successfully on its western and southern peripheries," he said.

For Japan, which like the United States has also recently upgraded its relations with the community, a strengthened EC spells easier trade negotiations avoiding bilateral spats.

"We welcome a stronger and more dynamic community, as long as it's compatible with an open multilateral trading system," a Brussels-based Japanese diplomat said.

Early fears of the EC becoming a protectionist fortress Europe when the single market is completed after 1992 have subsided. Japan and the community have run a joint campaign against U.S. trade laws allowing unilateral sanctions if disputes are not settled to Washington's satisfaction.

Britain's fierce defence of its sovereignty in the face of Germany's federalist ambitions for Europe is widely seen as braking but not halting the momentum building up for the community's new world role.

But enhanced political and foreign policy powers will be needed to complement the community's awesome economic weight, EC watchers say.

EC peace-broking efforts in Yugoslavia have so far met with little success. Even so, they are seen as a major turning point in the community's assumption of global responsibilities which may soon be tested to the full as the Soviet Union.

## 1992 could be year of the vote for South Africa's blacks

By Rodney Pinder  
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — Black South Africans may vote at last in 1992.

Formidable obstacles of violence and racial mistrust must be cleared, but if the winds of change carry on blowing in the right direction millions of blacks will reap the reward of decades of struggle for political and human rights.

Their first chance to vote should come in a nationwide referendum on an interim government or some other transitional arrangement to lead the country to democracy from 300 years of white minority rule.

Reformist white President F.W. de Klerk has pledged to consult white voters before committing irrevocably to a democratic constitution which would remove some of their power.

Government officials say that rather than wait full constitutional agreement between white

and black parties, Mr. de Klerk wants to refer back before agreeing to a transition. The officials are confident the ballot will take place sometime in the new year.

The date will depend on the progress of all-party talks involving the white government and 20 black groups which are only now getting under way, amid violence, recrimination and deep-seated suspicions. It was first planned that they would start a year ago.

White referendum votes will be counted separately — the whites still have the power to veto change — but the other races will be included in the overall poll. Universal adult franchise has never before been granted to blacks.

"I think 1992 will be a historic year," says political analyst Wim Booysse. South Africa has staggered bloodily to this point. Nearly 4,000 blacks have been killed in political warfare since, Mr. de Klerk began the process of

change by freeing Nelson Mandela and legalising black opposition activity in February, 1990.

Violent crime is rampant, fuelled by massive black unemployment and homelessness, scaring the wits out of whites who have long gazed askance at the ruined economies, coups and civil wars of independent Africa north of the Limpopo River.

The independent, Econometric think tank, says violence, crime and labour anarchy has plunged business into unprecedented gloom, threatening a new tidal wave of white emigration.

Despite an easing of economic sanctions, foreign capital, desperately needed to raise the economy out of its longest recession in 40 years, remains relatively scarce. Experts say international investors will remain wary while the political situation remains bloody, unstable and unpredictable.

The business mood has been shaken too by revived talk of

nationalisation by Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), widely regarded as the black government-in-waiting.

Black leaders face enormous pressure from 28 million constituents to redress the economic and social wrongs of apartheid imposed to protect five million whites.

Almost a quarter of the 18 million first-time black voters will be aged between 18 and 24 — the so-called "lost generation." They missed out on education and training in the youth uprisings of the 1970s and 1980s which shocked white governments onto the path of reform.

These militant youngsters — 44 per cent of them unemployed — want to taste the fruits of their rebellion now. They have little patience with talk from their ageing leaders of compromise and delicate business conditions.

Poles apart, a majority of white voters — undefeated in war and in control of the biggest economy

south of the Sahara — would probably reject a negotiated settlement that did not reserve substantial power for themselves.

Mr. de Klerk is struggling to hold on to his white support base amid the turbulence. Resistance to more change is growing and no longer confined to the extreme right, analysts say.

The president received a shock in November when the pro-apartheid Conservative Party hammered his National Party in a by-election in the Orange Free State.

Political scientist Hermann Giliomee compares Mr. de Klerk to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev — "ringing songs of praise abroad are accompanied by the dull thud of crumbling constituencies at home."

As they contemplate the end of one of the world's most privileged lifestyles, whites have one big reason to cheer: they are back in world sport.

One of the most sports-obses-

sed nations looks forward to a feast of international tennis, golf and cricket in 1992, crowned by participation in the Olympic Games for the first time since it was quarantined because of apartheid 32 years ago.

Two international tennis tournaments and a formula one motor racing Grand Prix have been scheduled for South Africa. The Paris-Dakar motor rally is being rerouted to end in Cape town and the Indian cricket team will visit. Rugby union and soccer are on the brink of bridging racial divides in order to win world acceptance.

But the process has been soured by white unwillingness to give up their springbok emblem and national flag which proclaim to many blacks an Aryan supremacy they thought was dying.

It has prompted several commentators to question whether whites are prepared to accept real change as they approach the crossroads.

## Kuwait oil lakes pose environmental nightmare

By Samia Nakhoul  
Reuters

KUWAIT — Flocks of birds are being enticed to certain death in giant oil lakes that shimmer invitingly under a scorching Kuwaiti sun.

The birds land on the lakes expecting water, only to become trapped in pools of crude oil that spilled from more than 700 wells wrecked and torched by retreating Iraqi troops in February.

"They are lured into a certain death. Once they plunge into the pools, they get coated with oil and die," John Walsh of the World Society for the Protection of Animals told Reuters.

Mr. Walsh, in Kuwait to assess the Gulf war's impact on the

environment and wildlife, said flocks of dead birds had been found in the seven to 30 metre-wide lakes.

With the winter migration season under way, millions of birds will swarm the skies of the Gulf. Concern is growing on how to stop an imminent disaster.

Oil companies say draining the pools could take up to a year.

Until then, Kuwaiti scientists say, the oil threatens to "seep down and contaminate the water table, and oil evaporating in high temperatures will add toxic vapours to the already polluted air."

The oil lakes are just one part of the environmental nightmare still haunting Kuwait eight months after the Gulf war ended.

Hundreds of oil fires that were only finally capped on Nov. 6, and huge oil slicks off the coast have also set alarm bells ringing among environmentalists.

"I don't want to frighten people but it is a total disaster. The air, sea, soil and wildlife are polluted," said Fozia Al Sidrawi of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research.

According to statistics compiled by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, some 15,000 to 30,000 birds have been killed since the Gulf war, she said.

Ms. Sidrawi said mortality was high among birds such as cormorants, flamingos, herons, gulls, swallows, martins and ducks.

A sample study in Kuwait showed that 400 wader birds out

of a total of 2,000 were found dead, she said.

Ms. Sidrawi said that even when the oil lakes were drained, the toxic hydrocarbon in the sludge left behind would kill the "microfauna and the microflora" that form basic food chains for animals.

Sea birds are threatened by the six to eight million barrels of crude which spilled into the Gulf during the conflict, forming the world's biggest oil slick.

The oil has destroyed marine life along Saudi Arabia's gulf shoreline and part of the Iranian coast.

The Kuwait coastline has been badly polluted but scientists are unable to study the damage because of unexploded mines.

### LETTERS

#### More accuracy, please!

To the Editor:

When I watched Wednesday the 10 n'clock news on Jordan Television, I heard a Jordanian reporter, while reporting from Washington referring to statements she had never mentioned previously. She also came out of the blue telling us, "Netanyahu arrived..." without any prior indication as to who this man was, what his first name was, what he did, or where he fit in the peace conference.

You cannot presume that we know everything. Maybe Jordan TV has some answers for us, the "bewildered audience."

Maha Belhail,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



## Egypt blocks OIC move against Soviet emigration

CAIRO (R) — Egypt blocked a push by Iran and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to criticise the Soviet Union and the West for facilitating the flow of Jews to Israel in the run up to an Islamic summit.

Delegates said Islamic foreign ministers Saturday renewed their support for the Palestinian people and condemned Israel but could not agree how to address the United States and its European allies.

Asked if there were still differences after the evening session, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said: "Yes. It is between the Palestinians and Egyptians. But we (Iran) are also against the immigration of any Jews to Palestine."

Egypt is Washington's strongest ally in the Arab World. According to a draft resolution obtained by Reuters, the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) asks Moscow to "reconsider the transfer of Soviet Jews to Israel and the government of the United States of America and European countries to reconsider the provision of facilities and financial assistance to Israel."

The foreign ministers are drafting resolutions to put to a summit of the 45-member OIC which is due to open Monday.

Several key leaders, including King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Colonel Muammar Qadhafi of Libya, are staying away. Iraq is boycotting the meeting, saying it is controlled by its Gulf war foe Saudi Arabia and other pro-American states.

**Baker: U.S. committed to peace**

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Scheffer: Meanwhile, the co-sponsor of the talks, the Soviet Union, has been mired in its own growing crisis. Severe food shortages are now expected within days. And now even President Mikhail Gorbachev is saying there could be another coup attempt.

What can we expect from the Middle East peace talks? We'll ask the secretary of state, James A. Baker, about that, and the latest news from the Soviet Union. And we'll be joined by Thomas Friedman, the chief diplomatic correspondent for "The New York Times."

Dr. Ashrawi: We are not here to make empty gestures or to in empty rooms.

Mr. Scheffer: And joining us now, the secretary of state, James Baker.

Mr. Friedman: Mr. Secretary, I wonder if you could bring us up-to-date on the peace talks and particularly your role right now. After Madrid, you hailed the parties for beginning direct talks.

For two weeks, they couldn't decide on where meet next, in part because the Arabs wouldn't talk directly to the Israelis about that procedural question, and then you simply, with the Soviets, set a date for here in Washington, Dec. 4, much to the aggravation of the Israelis.

Now you seem to be stepping back and saying to the parties, "Well, you guys figure it out," since they didn't meet on Dec. 4. What is going to be your role?

The Israelis say you've learned your lesson now, you're not going to be the mailman anymore between the parties — "You two sit down and figure it out." What is going to be your role?

Mr. Baker: Let me say, Tom, that we had never wanted to be a mailman. We said that from the very beginning. It would be much better if the parties would get together and would sit down and would engage not just procedurally but substantively.

We've always seen our role, though, as being a catalyst for peace, to the extent that we can serve as such. We've said that would try to be a guiding force to see the process begin in the first place and then continue. If we had not proposed a date and location in Madrid at the end of October, I dare say the parties still would not have gotten to the table.

So we're very pleased with

**Islamic summit**

(Continued from page 1)

ing current peace talks with Israel.

"Please stop trying to show yourself more loyal to our cause than us," an Arab delegate quoted Mr. Kaddoumi as telling Sheikh Tashkiri Saturday night.

"If you want to liberate Palestine you are more than welcome to do so. We will be the last to stop you."

He (Mr. Tashkiri) was only explaining the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the importance of not recognising the Zionist enemy and the need to liberate all the occupied territories," an Iranian official told Reuters.

Mr. Kaddoumi denied any such argument took place. "We are

U.S. President George Bush, using an economic lever to coax Israel into Middle East peace talks, has persuaded Congress to delay until January considering an Israeli request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees it needs to help absorb the influx of Soviet Jews.

The ministers met in a marble-clad conference centre named after King Fahd, who has paid most of the \$145 million bill to hold the summit in Senegal.

They were meeting Sunday to discuss economic and cultural relations, delegates said.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said the king was sending his brother, Crown Prince Abdullah, to the summit.

A Senegalese official said Colonel Qadhafi would not come and the Sudanese delegation said President Omar Hasan Al Bashir would also miss the summit, the sixth since the OIC was established in 1969 to unite the world's one billion Muslims.

Hopes that the conference would serve as an opportunity for repairing Gulf war rifts in Arab ranks dimmed as the disappointing level of attendance became clear.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali Ahmad Sahloul said: "Maybe the political atmosphere is not conducive to achieving very much... negative attitudes from the Gulf crisis still persist."

In a thinly-veiled rebuke to Saudi Arabia and its conservative Gulf allies, Mr. Sahloul said: "It seems that those who pay are those who decide."

Madrid. We're pleased with the fact that, for the first time, Arabs and Israelis are sitting together talking about peace.

The mere fact that they're going to talk doesn't mean that we're going to have peace, but I can guarantee you that if they don't talk, we won't have peace. So it is a necessary first step.

We want to see the process that was begun in Madrid continue and we're going to do everything we can to encourage its continuation. We have made a proposal. We are not now going to start changing that by saying, "Well, if you can't do it on date we'll do — let's do date Y, let's do date Z."

What we've said is, "here's where it ought to start now, for the next go-round, here in Washington," and we think from Dec. 4 on, we should have facilities available and ready. They are available and ready. We're encouraged when we read reports coming out of capitals that the parties might, indeed, get together here in Washington sometime this coming week.

Now, we don't know that they will. We hope that they will — that they themselves will begin to talk to each other about when and where they're going to sit down, and then, most importantly, that they will begin to talk substance.

We have said, we said from the very beginning, we want to be a catalyst for peace. We want to serve as a driving force to the extent that we can and to the extent that it would be productive, and we reserve the right — as, indeed, I think we should as co-sponsors — to submit bridging proposals from time to time if that would be helpful.

Now, we hope the parties will do it themselves, and there are some indications that maybe those dynamics are beginning to take over.

Let me say one final thing. We said at the beginning of the process that there would be many hitches and many interruptions along the way, and we've had one now. It's not something that was unexpected. It was totally expected. We will have others.

This will be a long and a complicated process, but at least the process has begun. I don't think it's going to totally collapse before they get together again.

We're not going to be in the room unless we are invited in room by both parties. We've made that very clear from the beginning. Those are part of the ground rules.

linked with friendship with the Iranian people and the Iranian government," he told Reuters.

**Bonn**

(Continued from page 1)

The last U.S. hostage in Lebanon, journalist Terry Anderson, was freed last Wednesday.

"In the past there was American pressure on Germany not to resolve the Hamadi brothers' issue. This pressure seems to have been lifted now," the Muslim leader said.

"Mr. Struwig and Mr. Kempner are held by the Freedom Strugglers Group, which is believed to be made up of followers of Abdul Hadi Hamadi, the elder brother of Abbas and Mohammad Ali.

## Multilaterals will help bilaterals

(Continued from page 1)

level, but he said Jordanian internal reasons — related to the change in government late last month — had preempted coordination and consultation talks between the Jordanian-Palestinian and Syrian delegations ahead of the bilateral talks in Washington.

"Things have been moving so rapidly that at times it is impossible to accomplish all that is needed and required," he said and emphasised that Jordanian-Syrian relations remained "very cordial and very close."

"There is a lot of healing to be done," said the King in answer to a question on inter-Arab relations in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis. "I believe it has begun. I hope that the opportunity will arise for the leaders to meet in the interests of the people, in the interests of future generations."

The King emphasised that if the objective is to ensure stability and security in the Middle East the only way to achieve it is through democracy — "the only guarantee for stability and continuity and the fulfilment of all our hopes and aspirations."

The King said the change in government in Jordan last month was an interim measure ahead of consolidation of democracy through enacting new legislation and left open the possibility that new elections could be called prior to the expiry of the full-four-year term of the current parliament, which was elected in November 1989.

Laws under consideration in parliament and being drafted include one related to legalisation of political parties and another enhancing the press and publication law. An election law,

streamlining the voting and electorate systems, is also being drafted.

"I hope very soon that we will be in a position to have the people pass judgement on their experience on this period on the road in democracy that we are personally committed to," he said. "We are now in the third year of the life of the current parliament. There is one year left... but may be..." the King told UNI.

The Royal family, the King said in answer to a question, "has provided continuity... in extremely difficult circumstances. It has been above any differences within the context of the family that Jordan is comprised of. It will continue to do so in the future."

"But my hope is that more and more, as time passes — and nobody is going to be there for ever in any event — people assume responsibilities."

On the economic front, the King referred to the problems of Jordan which were compounded by the return of hundreds of thousands of expatriates from the Gulf, but described the Kingdom's achievements as "tremendous," given the enormity of the crisis it had to face and in comparison with the funds channelled to Israel from abroad.

The interest of Jordan's friends in the world to help and support the Kingdom, the King said, goes beyond the realm of the current peace process. At the same time, he expressed hope that the multilateral phase of negotiations — "with the obvious interest and participation of many states, many nations" — will offer an opportunity to "look at a completely different scene, where hopefully there will be an opportunity to listen to some problems of all on a very large scale."

**Massive curfew marks intifada**

(Continued from page 1)

labourers in order to gather information and pursue suspects.

Despite an overall decrease in rights offenses over the past two years, "human rights continued to be violated extensively," the B'tselem report said.

The group cited a marked increase in Israeli seizures of Arab land, as well as continuing collective punishment, expulsions of Palestinians, arrest without trial, and demolition of houses of suspects' families.

B'tselem condemned the cur-

few in force on 50,000 people in the Ramallah area.

It also attacked Palestinian killings of fellow Arabs suspected of collaboration. "B'tselem condemns these murders as a severe infringement of the most basic right of all: The right to life," it said.

According to B'tselem figures, Israeli security forces killed a total of 91 Palestinians over the past year, compared with 126 last year and 284 deaths in the uprising's first year.

The army said only 75 Palestinians have been killed by its forces this year and 93 in 1990.

**Libyan suspects may face death**

(Continued from page 1)

trial in the United Kingdom or the United States and, that remains the case," a spokeswoman said in London.

She said the Libyan government had to disclose what it knew. "We have received no satisfactory response and we have made it quite clear that the proper course is to meet out demands," she said.

Officials in Tripoli said the judge would later question four Libyans accused of blowing up a French Uta airliner over Niger in 1989.

## Israelis

(Continued from page 1)

It was still unclear how long the Israeli negotiators would stay in Washington for the three separate sets of negotiations with Syria, Lebanon and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

A senior Israeli official said they would be prepared to stay for two or three sessions. But he declined to define how long a session could last — whether it could stretch out longer.

Mr. Ben Aharon said Israel still wanted to shift the talks to the Middle East and made it clear the negotiators would not be pre-

pared to stay in Washington indefinitely.

Israel says it cannot keep around 40 of its top officials in the three negotiating teams in Washington for long. More importantly, it wants to win Arab recognition by holding talks in Israel and Arab countries.

The Arabs are determined to withhold such recognition until

Israel agrees to start withdrawing from occupied territories.

"Of course, we would have preferred to hold the talks directly in the region. But since our neighbours have refused to do so, we have agreed to come here and at least begin this phase in the talks, hoping that this would bring about a breakthrough," said Mr. Ben Aharon.



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## Fever forces Becker out of EC tennis championship final

ANTWERP (R) — Boris Becker, struck down by a fever, had to pull out of the final of the European Community Tennis Championship Sunday.

The German was due to play American Aaron Krickstein, but failed to show up.

On Saturday, Becker, complaining of stomach pains, was seen by a doctor after winning his semifinal against Czech Ivan Lendl.

Tournament officials declared Krickstein the winner and told the cheering crowd the American would play an exhibition match against Dennis Van Scheppingen, Dutch winner of the tournament junior event earlier Sunday.

"He has the chance to get a tennis lesson from Aaron Krickstein," said Georges Baudeweyns, a tournament committee member, amid whistles from the disappointed crowd.

"We're more sorry than you

think," Baudeweyns said.

One of the tournament doctors who had visited Becker in his hotel room said: "He feels dizzy every time he tries to get up."

"The protection of my body is more important than a tennis match," the doctor quoted Becker as saying.

"He had to lie down for an hour because of a balance problem after his match against Lendl Saturday," Baudeweyns said.

"There is no other match possible," he added.

The tournament, famous for its diamond-encrusted golden trophy shaped like a tennis racket, celebrated its 10th anniversary this year.

Becker's withdrawal gave Krickstein, a wild card entry, his first tournament victory in two years.

Both losing semifinalists Lendl and Italian Omar Camporese had left Antwerp and were not avail-

able to replace Becker, a tournament official said.

Krickstein receives the winner's cheque of \$250,000, while Becker gets \$160,000 as losing finalist.

If Becker recovers in time, he will have to play Krickstein in the \$6-million Grand Slam Cup in Munich, Germany Wednesday.

Dutch journalists covering the tournament said they had never heard of Van Scheppingen, who is only 16.

Lendl squandered his chance of winning for keeps his second million-dollar trophy as Becker and Krickstein qualified for the final.

Becker, the second seed, beat five-times champion Lendl 6-4, 7-5 after Lendl became so upset with the line calls that he had a line judge replaced.

It was too late for the big Czechoslovak, who took possession of his first diamond-

encrusted racket trophy in 1985 for winning this title three times inside five years and was in line for a second having won again in 1987 and 1989.

"It would have been nice," Lendl, the third seed, said.

Lendl complained bitterly about a line call in the eighth game, which cost him a break. When the same linesman ruled a Lendl ace on the line out in the first game of the second set, the former world number one protested loudly and demanded that the linesman be substituted.

Krickstein, a late replacement in the tournament, beat Camporese 6-4, 6-4 in the other semifinal to earn a clash with the German in Sunday's final.

As usual, Krickstein pounded his heavy groundstrokes from the baseline to Camporese, who relied more on his stronger first serve. He hit 15 aces but made five times more unforced errors



Boris Becker

than his opponent.

"I changed rackets before the U.S. Open and I like it a lot better. It's given me more confidence. I also improved my backhand and my serve in the last three months," said Krickstein.

Lendl said Saturday he would play all four Grand Slam tournaments next year.

"These will be my major tournaments. I will be trying to concentrate on the Grand Slams

and just play along," Lendl said.

Lendl, ranked number five in the world, missed the French Open because of a hand injury this year and skipped it last year to concentrate on Wimbledon, the only Grand Slam title that has eluded him in his 13-year career.

Asked whether he would take part in next year's Olympic Games, Lendl, who is due to become a U.S. citizen next year, said: "I don't know, it's still up in the air."

## Red Star wins World Club Championship with 10 men

TOKYO (R) — Red Star of Belgrade won the World Club Soccer Championship Sunday by beating Colo Colo of Chile 3-0, despite losing their best player after 45 minutes.

Pinpoint finishing and superb discipline enabled the champions of Europe to overcome the energetic and skilful South Americans, who were never able to turn possession into goals.

In the 43rd minute, captain and forward Dejan Savicevic, star player of the first half, was sent off for pushing Miguel Ramirez in an incident off the ball.

He was the first player sent off in a World Club Championship game since the competition moved to neutral Tokyo in 1980.

"It was very hard for us to lose a player like that," Red Star coach Vladimir Popovic told a news conference. "We did not change our tactics. Our 10 players played like 11."

Midfielder Vladimir Jovic opened the scoring in the 19th minute when he took a perfect pass from Savicevic inside the penalty box, took a stride and slid the ball into the corner.

Red Star were the better side in the first half, creating more chances, but were stunned when Savicevic was sent off after what

Red Star fans said was provocation by Ramirez on a player known to have a quick temper.

Savicevic kicked the half-way line flag in disgust as he walked off the field and was hustled into the dressing room.

In the first four minutes of the second half, Swiss referee Kurt Rothlisberger booked two Red Star players, midfielder Simsa Milajovic and defender Goran Vasiljevic, and the game was open for Colo Colo to take over.

But in the 59th minute, Jovic scored his second from close in after a fine move down the right and a cross by Vlada Stosic.

The Chileans piled on the pressure but centre forward Patricio Yanez squandered their best chance in the 68th minute when he shot straight at the goalkeeper.

As the Chileans moved forward they left a big hole on the right for Milajovic, who crossed to Darko Panchev who scored easily from seven metres in the 72nd minute.

"They deserved their win," said Colo Colo coach Mirko Jozic. "We had much possession, but we're not able to make good use of it. We put too much emphasis on individual play. That was a mistake."

## Germans call for sacking of eastern swimming coaches

GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany (R) — Seven west German swimming coaches Sunday called for the sacking of 20 former east German trainers who last week admitted doping had helped the former Communist state to success in the last two decades.

"We do not believe that all those who worked with banned substances for years will stop," the club trainers wrote in an open letter to fellow coaches at the European Sprint Swimming Championships.

"We demand... that trainers and doctors who have said they were involved in doping abuse should no longer get any contract from the German Swimming Federation."

The 20 ex-east German trainers released a statement last week admitting that anabolic steroids had been used in East German swimming but said the abuse was ordered by higher officials.

German Swimming Federation (DSV) officials have said the coaches could keep their jobs in the united Germany but banned several leading doctors and coaches from German swimming.

The letter adds fuel to the furious doping row in German swimming which leading coaches say is a major burden on preparations for next year's Barcelona Olympics.

The west German trainers wrote that they were not satisfied with the statement by the former east Germans in which they said drugs had been used in swimming

but they now condemned their use.

"This statement is at least a year too late. We are worried about the health of our swimmers," the letter said. "The presidency of the DSV is obviously not in a position to deal with the doping subject as it must deal with."

The coaches said major steps needed to be taken to save German swimming from being tarnished.

They called for an independent person or body to look into the doping problem, the introduction of immediate random dope testing and the revision of the record books.

"Doctors and trainers who have admitted to doping should not be picked to go to international events with the German team," the coaches wrote.

The letter marked the first major public confrontation between east and west German trainers over doping since last year's unification.

"The problem needs to be dealt with. I hope people get together now and clear it up," DSV Vice-President Klaus Hentzer said. "I have understanding for the letter."

Meanwhile, Germany clinched five titles on the second day of the inaugural European Sprint Swimming Championships Saturday.

The home country captured 10 medals in the 25-metre pool,

## Free scoring Leeds, Man. United power ahead

LONDON (R) — Free-scoring Leeds and Manchester United powered further ahead in the English Soccer League with emphatic victories.

United demolished Coventry 4-0, while leaders Leeds won 2-0 at bottom club Luton.

With Manchester City losing 3-1 at Aston Villa, the leading pair have opened up a huge gap between the new third-placed club Sheffield Wednesday, 3-0 winners at home to Chelsea.

Leeds have 42 points followed by United, who have a game in hand, on 41 with Wednesday moving up to 32.

Luton battled well in the first half with Leeds but goals by Rodney Wallace and Gary Speed within two minutes midway through the second half gave the visitors the points.

United were never stretched against Coventry, racing into a 3-0 halftime lead with goals from Steve Bruce, Neil Webb and Brian McClair. Mark Hughes put the icing on the cake nine minutes from time.

Struggling Liverpool, humili-

ated at third division Peterborough in the League Cup Tuesday, drew 1-1 at Southampton thanks to a 74th minute strike from league debutant Jamie Redknapp, son of Harry Redknapp, the former West Ham winger and present manager at third division Bournemouth.

Leeds gradually took control at Luton, but it was 68 minutes before Wallace made it count, the winger hitting the roof of the net with a fine shot after the home defence failed to deal with a throw-in.

Two minutes later Gary Speed took advantage of a defensive lapse to hit the target with a perfect strike.

Manchester United snuffed out Coventry with three goals in a 14-minute spell which had the Old Trafford fans in raptures.

The first came after 13 minutes when a free kick from Ryan Giggs worked its way through for Bruce to knock home from close range.

Seven minutes later a superb through ball from Gary Pallister sent Webb away and the mid-

star calmly lifted his shot over the advancing goalkeeper.

Coventry looked in real trouble whenever United attacked, and in the 27th minute when they failed to clear a corner from Giggs, McClair scored from virtually under the bar.

Hughes's second half strike was United's 21st league goal at home this season.

Sheffield Wednesday moved into third place thanks to two goals from David Hirst in his 24th birthday and an 89th minute effort from Paul Williams. The only blot on the performance came when Nigel Worthington and Chelsea goalkeeper Kevin Hitchcock were sent off in the 66th minute after they clashed.

Manchester City, dumped out of the League Cup by second division Middlesbrough in midweek, failed to lift their game at Aston Villa and were sunk by goals from Crysle Regis, Dwight Yorke and Tony Daley. David White scored the lone City goal.

Liverpool's Bruce Grobbelaar, blamed for the Peterborough dis-

aster, made some amends with excellent saves at Southampton, but could do nothing about Alan Shearer's 54th minute goal.

Redknapp, 19, came on as substitute and spared the blushes for Liverpool with an easy tap-in goal 16 minutes from time.

Merseyside neighbours Everton enjoyed a much better day, thrashing West Ham 4-0. The last goal came from Mo Johnston, his first since his expensive move last month from Glasgow Rangers.

In Scotland, leaders Hearts cruised to a 2-0 win at bottom club Dunfermline and retained their two-point premier league lead over Rangers, who beat St. Johnstone 3-1.

Saviet midfielder Alexei Mikhailichevok pot Rangers ahead two minutes before half-time.

Bot Saints hit back with a 57th minute equaliser from Vinnie Arkins. John Brown lifted the champions back into the lead with a powerful volley in 77 minutes and Mark Hateley wrapped it up in the dying seconds.

## Foreman stops hapless opponent in 3rd round

RENO, Nevada (R) — George Foreman said he was rusty but he could afford to be, against a stationary and slow Jimmy Ellis whom he battered into a third round defeat Saturday.

Foreman was hitting the hapless Ellis almost at will and several times in the fight stepped back, waiting for the referee to stop the scheduled 10-round fight for Ellis to fall down.

Finally referee Richard Steele stepped in to stop the slaughter and ended the fight at one minute and 36 seconds of the third round.

From the opening bell, it appeared to be only a matter of time before Foreman disposed of

the former professional football player.

Foreman quickly got through Ellis's porous defence to cut him on the bridge of the nose late in the first round.

Midway through the second round, Foreman buckled Ellis' knees with a hard, if ponderous, left hook. The former Oakland Raider hung on as Foreman continued to pound him and looked at the referee to stop the fight.

After the bell ending the second round, Ellis had to be led to his corner.

He seemed to recover his senses enough at the opening of the third round to land a flurry of

punches that caught Foreman in the body and one in the head.

But Foreman, who received \$5 million for the fight — his first since losing a 12-round decision to heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield last April — quickly staggered Ellis with two more lefts and Steele stepped in to end the fight.

"He has an iron jaw," said Foreman afterward. "You can't hardly hurt him."

Neither Ellis nor Foreman argued with Steele's decision to stop the bout.

Steele has been sharply criticised in past fights by fighters who said he stepped in too early.

But Foreman said the decision was correct and admitted he was concerned he could hurt Ellis seriously if the fight had continued.

"I'm back now," said Foreman. I feel like I just chewed my first piece of bubble gum."

"There's no doubt I'll get my title shot," Foreman said. "I'm closing every door."

He said he would take on all the top challengers and leave Holyfield no choice but to fight him again.

The victory raises Foreman's record to 70-3 and drops Ellis, who earned about \$350,000, to 16-1-1.

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY DECEMBER 9, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** The restless discontent going around today won't go away until after Mercury squares Jupiter early this evening. Keep a close watch over those who are near and dear to you and stay away from noisy neighbors.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Get busy and finish whatever has been left undone so you start the new week without anything of a holding nature and you make real headway.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) See what you can do to bring your charm more to the surface and be less casual with those love letters that know of your devotion to them.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Take a good look about you and see what needs to be done to make all in better condition. You have some need now to please an irate family member.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Your trips and you should include one where you can renew your mind and spirit after which see close companions and get their support.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) This is your day to reduce those big ideas with which you have recently become infused to a working reality and to let businessmen know you appreciate them.

**VERGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Now you find that you are able

to gain the good will of most everyone about if you or entertain them and show you value their good will.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You have the need now to quietly meditate, concentrate and reflect upon what you can do to bring out of some chaos about you.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You think you can badge a friend into doing what you want him/her to do but this is not advisable for you lose a staunch ally and supporter.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Now you have a need to let those about be more aware that you are the one who follows the rules and laws to which you are subject and are charitable in nature.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Some new standpoint which takes some deep thinking can be of remarkable assistance to you so listen close or read what wise, experienced persons have to say.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Let that powerful bunch that is so insistent come to the fore front and show you are the one who does value the good will of others.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Listen close to those with whom you are allied have to say to you and you will find the answer for a closer cooperation with them without difficulty.

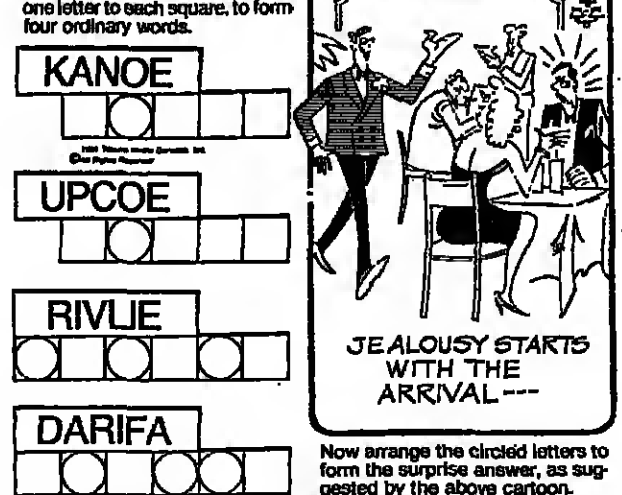
## THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Congratulations! Your bald spot is 20 years old today!"

## JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

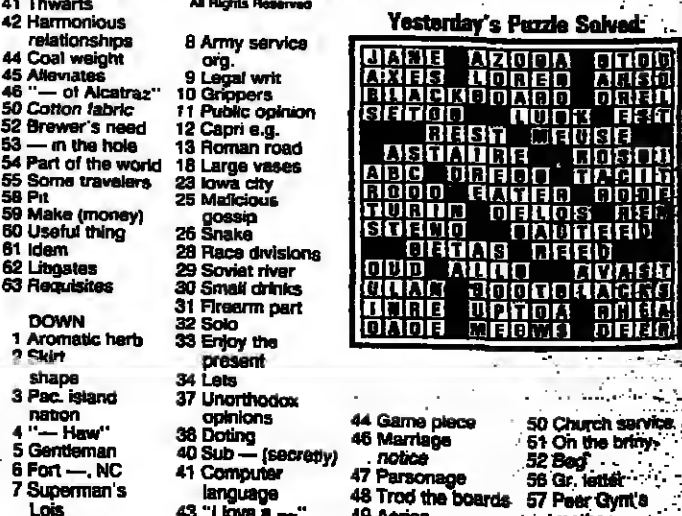
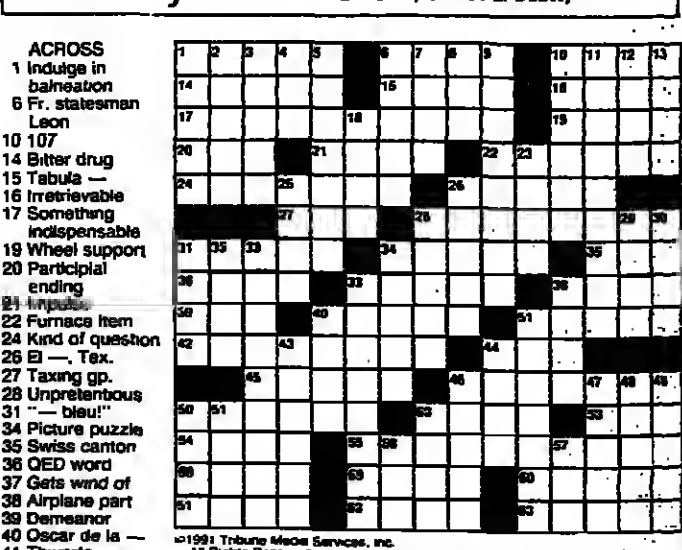
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here:     (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CREEL PEONY BUREAU VIOLIN  
Answer: Some of those characters in politics do this when they don't have to run for office—  
RUN FOR COVER

## THE Daily Crossword by James L. Beatty



## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR GHARIB & TANNAR HIRSH

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠A96 ♠A542 ♠J63 ♠A93  
Do you open the bidding?
- Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠652 ♠Q10764 ♠AK ♠K43  
Do you open the bidding?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠QJ3 ♠QJ6 ♠QJ85 ♠KQ7  
Do you open the bidding?
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠KJ752 ♠AJ63 ♠Q84 ♠5  
Do you open the bidding?
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠Q84 ♠5 ♠KJ752 ♠AJ63  
Do you open the bidding?
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
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Financial Markets  
in co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Bank

### Foreign Exchange Market Summary (December 2-December 6, 1991)

AMMAN — The U.S. currency was caught between opposing forces of weak U.S. economic fundamentals and tensions in the Soviet Union, during most of the week's trading sessions. Yet it was a week of gradual decline for the dollar that culminated in an anticipated sharp drop. It thus ended the week an average of 3.4 per cent lower against major European currencies and 1.60 per cent lower against the yen, compared to the previous week.

The dollar closed lower against European currencies Monday, although higher than the levels seen in earlier trading. A plunge in the Nikkei average had a temporary adverse effect on the New York Stock Exchange which dropped at the opening before rebounding later on. The mark, on the other hand, was supported by comments from the Bundesbank president on the necessity of maintaining high interest rates in Germany, and the possibility of another rate hike. U.S. economic data were reportedly of limited impact, as November's Purchasing Management Index declined to 50.1 per cent from 53.4 per cent the previous month, and Construction Spending rose by one per cent in October. Nevertheless, the dollar closed at its highest levels for the week at 1.6123 marks, 130.12 yen and \$1.7730 to the pound sterling. The U.S. currency continued its decline Tuesday under the weight of several contradictory factors. It's drop started in Tokyo after Japanese officials revealed that a higher yen exchange rate, up to 120 yen to the dollar, would be acceptable to the Japanese government, as long as it is achieved gradually over a reasonable period of time. President Gorbachev's comments that another coup attempt was possible had a limited impact on the mark, while Mr. Sumner's departure from the White House had a negative influence on the dollar. Meanwhile, October's Leading Economic Indicators at one per cent higher than the previous month and New Housing Starts, promising at 2.2 per cent higher, also had limited impact.

Wednesday witnessed a brief dollar rally to 1.6175 marks on news that the USSR was suspending repayment of principal on some of its medium and long term bank debt until January 93. Rumours that Mr. Gorbachev had resigned further fuelled the rally. But a statement issued later by the U.K.'s treasury mentioned that the Soviet decision was consistent with the previous month's agreement with the G-7, and thus diminished the negative impact on the mark and brought market concerns over interest rate differentials and weak U.S. economic fundamentals back into focus.

Concerns over unemployment figures triggered a sharp dollar decline Thursday, taking it well below 1.60 marks.

Friday witnessed another dollar drop which took the U.S. currency to its lowest levels for the week, and to its lowest since last March against the mark. The U.S. unit was weighed down by an alarming drop of 241,000 in November's U.S. Non-Farm Payrolls, against expectations of a drop in the 31,000 range. The Federal Reserve, in line with expectations, reacted by lowering the Federal Funds rate by 0.25 per cent to 4.5 per cent.

But while the mark's gains against other currencies accentuated the dollar's losses, market concerns over the possibility of central bank intervention to curb the mark's strength helped limit the dollar's decline.

While many market participants are concerned about possible central bank intervention and failure to breach technical support levels, most of them, nevertheless, are of the opinion that support at 1.55 marks to the dollar will soon be tested. Breach of support could take the dollar as low as 1.50 marks in the opinion of many.

#### New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	8/12/91	29/11/91	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.8165	1.7677	2.76%
Deutsche Mark	1.5665	1.6235	3.64%
Swiss Franc	1.3845	1.4340	3.58%
French Franc	5.3845	5.5505	3.06%
Japanese Yen	127.90	129.95	1.60%

(USD Per STD)

#### Euro-Currency Interest Rates

Currency	6/12/91	29/11/91	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	4.81	4.62	5.00	4.87		
Sterling Pound	10.50	10.56	10.56	10.43		
Deutsche Mark	9.45	9.51	9.51	9.37		
Swiss Franc	8.00	7.81	8.06	7.87		
French Franc	9.94	9.69	9.68	9.50		
Japanese Yen	6.28	5.50	6.28	5.62		

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollars, 1,000,000 or equivalent.

#### Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.677	0.679
Sterling Pound	1.2289	1.2350
Deutsche Mark	0.4316	0.4338
Swiss Franc	0.4882	0.4906
French Franc	0.1263	0.1269
Japanese Yen	0.5290	0.5316
Dutch Guilder	0.3832	0.3851
Swedish Krona	0.1164	0.1170
Italian Lira	0.0570	0.0573
Belgian Franc	0.02095	0.02105

Per 100

## Canada welfare payments criticised as grossly inadequate

OTTAWA (R) — Canada, often hailed for its generous social services, was sharply criticised by the government's own welfare advisory body that said payments to the poor are grossly inadequate.

Real incomes of recipients in seven of 10 provinces fell last year because welfare payments did not take into account increases in inflation, the National Council on Welfare said in a report.

"Many thousands of children from welfare families go to school hungry. Many thousands of single people and families live in sub-standard housing. Others cut back on food to be able to afford more livable accommodations," the council said.

"The income provided by most provincial and territorial welfare programmes is grossly inadequate for the vast majority of recipients," it pointed out.

Aid to the poor has been retrained by efforts to slash the conservative government's bloated budget deficit and by a recession that has increased unemployment.

Finance Minister Don Mazankowski, arguing the government cannot afford to spend more, dismissed demands by opposition parties in the House of Commons to increase payouts to welfare recipients.

"If she's going to ask us to spend more, she had better identify the source (of the funds)," Mr. Mazankowski said after criticism from an opposition member.

The poor, a marked contrast to Canada's overall wealth, are turning increasingly to alternative sources of help.

The number of food banks across the nation has more than



Don Mazankowski

doubled in the past two years to 341, according to the Canadian Association of Food Banks.

Most of Canada's 1.9 million welfare recipients spend 70 per cent of their cheques on rent, leaving little for other necessities.

The federal government is expected to pay the provinces 6.4 billion dollars (\$5.7 billion) towards welfare in the current fiscal year, representing 5.5 per cent of all government expenditure on programmes.

## Yugoslav conflict badly hits Bulgarian economy

SOFIA (R) — The Bulgarian economy is suffering badly as the armed conflict in neighbouring Yugoslavia scares tourists and traffic away from resorts and transit routes, Bulgarian officials have said.

Fighting in Yugoslavia has practically cut Bulgaria off from the rest of Europe by road. The country is also virtually inaccessible by the Danube River, which flows near the town of Vukovar.

"If we consider what the drop in traffic and tourism will amount to in terms of idle transport, empty hotels, restaurants, beaches, winter resorts, trains and planes, then we are going to be talking of losses of hundreds of millions of dollars," one tourist official said.

Officials at the Balkantourist Agency in Russia, on the Danube, said Bulgaria's two largest river passenger boats were in Linz, Austria, unable to travel downriver to their home port.

"We operate charter trips down the Danube but in the last two months we have lost some \$250,000 paying for idle crews and maintenance, not to mention losses in profit," Balkantourist Director Valentin Kostov said.

Transit traffic through Bulgaria to Turkey and beyond had also dropped sharply, said Dimitar Khazhinikolov, a senior official of the committee for tourism.

The number of Turks crossing Bulgaria from their jobs in western Europe fell sharply this year, while the total number of foreigners crossing into Bulgaria in the first nine months of the year dropped to six million from 8.5 million in 1990.

Mr. Khazhinikolov said East Europeans who normally drive to Bulgarian Black Sea resorts by car and coach through Yugoslavia had cancelled their holidays. The main highway, from Zagreb to Belgrade and south, remains cut off by the war.

Transit over Romanian roads was considered unsafe and impractical for tourists, he said. Even the number of people willing to fly into Bulgaria had dropped.

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But Mr. Menem antagonised opposition politicians by introducing the changes by decree rather than first seeking parliamentary approval. He justified his action by saying it would have taken years for all 122 legislative clauses to be passed by congress.

Former treasury secretary Manuel Solanet said he foresaw widespread opposition from sectors that benefited from lack of competition.

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## EC summit could change face of Europe

MAASTRICHT, Netherlands (R) — European Community (EC) leaders face a daunting task at their summit Monday and Tuesday to bridge national differences and agree a treaty on a single currency and common foreign policy.

But the Italian prime minister predicts they will succeed at the last moment and the 12-nation bloc could emerge from the meeting as a new world powerhouse speaking with a single voice.

If Community heads of state and government can resolve their differences and drag along Britain, the leading Euro-sceptic, the Maastricht summit will plot the way to a single currency which EC officials hope will rival the dollar and the yen before the year 2000.

It will also lay the foundations of a common foreign policy to make the 34-year-old Community speak as the new European union — and perhaps even send its own forces abroad if necessary.

Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti said at the weekend he was optimistic an overall agreement could be reached. "It will all be settled at the last moment — as has happened so often before," he told reporters in the Hague.

Committed European "federalists" and negotiators are keenly aware that the draft treaty on political and monetary union EC leaders will discuss is a much watered-down version of what some had hoped to achieve the past year of negotiations.

"Surely, in these circumstances the treaty will not be an ideal one," Dutch Prime Minister and summit Chairman Ruud Lubbers said last week. "It doesn't bother me that we don't reach an immediate treaty, a kind of ideal for eternity. It's an evolutionary model."

Six Christian Democratic EC leaders — Lubbers, Andreotti, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the prime ministers of Belgium, Greece and Luxembourg — met in the Hague Friday and agreed the treaty must at least make it clear that the EC's march towards a United States of Europe is irreversible.

But even if some of the more grandiose schemes have been pruned out of the draft this time, the treaty should make the rest of the world sit up and take notice.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union opening a vacancy in the select club of superpowers, the European Community will be giving itself the means to become a leading world player.

The Community's status as an economic powerhouse would be driven home to financial operators worldwide by the merging of national monies into a single strong, inflation-proof currency.

The European Currency Unit (ECU), which is already used for accounting and financial purposes, will replace national currencies such as the franc, the guilder or the Deutschmark as early as 1996 — and perhaps even Britain's cherished pound sterling, if London changes its mind.

This will eliminate currency risks for businessmen trading in the Community, where there will be no more internal barriers to the movement of people, goods, capital and services from the end of 1992 under a previous pact which is already largely implemented.

A common foreign and security policy, including for the first time a role in defence matters, may be less immediately perceived as a key development from outside the Community than the moves to Economic and Monetary Union (EMU).

Different topics and areas will be brought under this common foreign policy gradually, by unanimous agreement between the 12 EC states.

If the EC leaders can negotiate the delicate wording of the defence chapter, the Western European Union (WEU) — a defence group including all EC states except Greece, Ireland and Denmark — will be commissioned to look after the military side of the common foreign policy.

The WEU will however take special care not to sap the leading role in European defence of the U.S.-led NATO alliance — a potential side-effect "Atlanticists" such as Britain, the Netherlands and Portugal are determined to pre-empt.

The European Parliament's currently limited say in EC law-making will be enhanced — but not as much as Germany, the assembly's leading fan, would have liked.

## Moldova holds presidential election; Russians protest

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union's southwestern Republic of Moldova, which declared independence in August, Sunday held a presidential election overshadowed by protests from its ethnic Russian minority.

The Russians, concentrated in the south-eastern Dniestr region, want to stay in the Soviet Union and have already declared independence from the rest of the republic.

The press attaché to Igor Smirnov, elected president of the Dniestr region last week, said units of the recently-formed National Guard had sealed it off.

"Our National Guards are patrolling the borders with Moldova and bridges so no foreign armed people can infiltrate the republic," Valery Litvitskiy said by telephone from Tiraspol, main city in the area.

The Moldovan Interior Ministry, quoted by Soviet News Agency (TASS) Sunday accused the region of deploying 64 mobile armed groups to blockade areas where people intended to take part in the elections.

An ethnic Romanian policeman was shot and seriously wounded Saturday when he tried to drive into Dniestr, prompting fierce condemnation from Bucharest.

TASS said military helicopters from the Odessa military district, which Moldova accuses of arming the Russian separatists, were dropping leaflets over towns in the region calling on residents to boycott the vote.

Mr. Litvitskiy said only 42 of the 1,600 polling stations in Moldova were in the Dniestr region and voting there was slow.

President Mircea Snegur Fri-

day accused Soviet military units of occupying several areas of the republic to launch a coup, saying the Soviet army was distributing weapons to Russian extremists. The Soviet Armed Forces deny the charge.

Moldova's other sizeable ethnic minority, the Turkic Gagauz, also oppose breaking from Moscow.

Both minorities have declared the independence of their regions within Moldova and both held presidential elections last Sunday which the republican government declared invalid.

The Russians and Gagauz fear independence would lead to unification with Romania, leading to discrimination and turning them into second-class citizens.

Mr. Snegur is the only candidate and is almost certain to retain the post to which parliament appointed him last year. An Interior Ministry poll carried out last week gave him 64 per cent of the vote.

Local journalists in the capital Kishinyov reported a high turnout, but said voters' enthusiasm could partly be explained by the fact that scarce foodstuffs were on sale in polling stations.

Mr. Snegur has promised sweeping reform, saying priority should be given to democratisation, privatisation and creation of a national currency.

But his cautious stand on unification with Romania and his pragmatic line with Moscow have drawn increasingly fierce protests from the radical Popular Front.

The Front accused Mr. Snegur and the government of "state treachery" when they joined an economic cooperation treaty between the Soviet republics and

pledged to help repay Moscow's foreign debt.

But moderate democrats who support Mr. Snegur and form a majority in parliament fear instant unification could lead to serious ethnic fighting. Three people were killed in clashes in September 1990 in the Dniestr region.

Moldova, which has a population of 4.3 million, is mostly made up of Romanian lands incorporated into Soviet Union in 1940.

In the Dniestr town of Dubossary, near the borders of the region, local council deputy Genady Kozlov said armed workers' units were guarding the main bridge into the town.

"The situation remains very tense," he told a local journalist by telephone, saying 85 policemen from special Moldovan units had been sent into nearby Moldovan villages.

Mr. Kozlov said no polling stations were operating in the town.

Romania strongly condemned the Soviet army at the weekend over reports that it had armed Russian separatists in Moldova region to disrupt Sunday's presidential election there.

The Foreign Ministry protest came late Saturday after reports that an ethnic Romanian policeman was shot and wounded when he tried to enter Moldova's Dniestr region.

"The Romanian Foreign Ministry learned with great concern of the situation created in a region of the Republic of Moldova after actions by the 14th army of the Odessa military district of the forces of Soviet Defence Ministry of the USSR in support of separatists on the left bank of



the Dniestr River," the Romanian statement said.

"Such illegal acts supported by military forces worsen the conflict created in the Republic by separatist elements. It is obvious that these actions, taken on the eve of presidential elections, were conceived to create panic and prevent the population from freely expressing its will," Romania said.

The Romanian protest statement demanded "the immediate withdrawal from the territory of the Republic of Moldova of the armed forces which jeopardise its sovereignty."

"Brutal actions, shows of force like those in the Moldova Republic, just as in other parts of Europe, cannot bring us closer to the goals of the Paris charter for a new Europe."

"On the contrary they bear the germs of highly-dangerous situation that can lead to military conflicts with catastrophic consequences for the whole of Europe," it said.

## Hawke, under pressure, refuses to step down

SYDNEY (R) — Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke, under mounting pressure to recapture the political momentum from a surging opposition, Sunday dismissed speculation he will be forced to quit in favour of leadership rival Paul Keating.

Newspaper reports under such headlines as "Hawke is a goner" and "Hawke told to go," said a push to oust the prime minister could come as early as Dec. 17.

But Mr. Hawke told reporters: "I don't feel any pressure at all (to stand down), and I won't and I won't be required to."

The Labour prime minister also dismissed calls to bring forward treasurer Mr. Keating back into his government to help mount a counter-attack against a



Bob Hawke

tax reform plan unveiled by the opposition last month.

Mr. Hawke, who will be 62 Monday, said Mr. Keating had made his decision when he retired to the backbenches after losing a leadership ballot against him by 66 votes to 44 in June.

Mr. Hawke said he would lead Labour to a fifth consecutive election win, with an increased majority, in 1993. "I'm in the position where I've won four elections. I've demonstrated that I know what's required in regard to policies and presentation to win elections," he told reporters in Melbourne.

## NATO considers role as strongman for Europe

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO is considering whether it should become the military guarantor for a new pan-European security forum, perhaps using alliance forces to tackle future crises like the one in Yugoslavia.

NATO sources say that if the idea becomes a reality it would mean a massive extension of responsibility for the 16-nation alliance, which is currently limited to defending the territory of its member states.

It would also ensure NATO retains a key role in the post-cold war era, as a potential firefighter to deal with nationalist or ethnic conflicts the West fears could flare in Europe — but outside the alliance's geographical limits.

Some NATO members are known to be concerned that French proposals to give the European Community (EC) defence role, using an existing Franco-German brigade as the nucleus of a future European Army Corps, might reduce its influence.

A top North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) official suggested the idea publicly for the first time Friday and found immediate agreement from Soviet counterparts at a conference on European security in Brussels.

Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Gebhardt Von Moltke said NATO forces could be made available for the 38-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to implement its decisions if needed.

"This is a far-reaching idea ... there are quite a few people thinking in these terms," he said. "What we do if there are threats to European stability? Do we sit back?"

NATO, the world's only functioning military alliance since the demise of the Warsaw Pact last year, is sharply divided over whether it should take military action outside its borders.

Some members, like the United States and Britain, say the alliance must face up to this responsibility. Others, led by France, feel NATO should have a

much more limited role.

Mr. Von Moltke said he was aware the idea would be unacceptable to some countries "at first glance" and that it would take time.

But he said using NATO forces under the auspices of the CSCE could solve the long-standing dispute, since the troops could be used only at the request of CSCE members — therefore avoiding the perception that the alliance was acting unilaterally.

The idea is the latest in a string of proposals to strengthen the CSCE, currently little more than a forum for discussions on human rights and international codes of conduct which requires full consensus to take any real action.

It includes all European states, plus the United States and Canada, and has existed since the 1970s, although it only gained institutions and any real power last year.

Most countries involved want to give it more powers at a summit of the 38 member nations in Helsinki next March.

The CSCE has no armed forces and Germany has suggested it should have a core Security Council, modelled on the United Nations, as well as peacekeeping troops.

Mr. Von Moltke said NATO, as an institution, should also have a seat at the CSCE table before the alliance could play a role in giving the necessary military support.

The Western alliance had been criticised, he said, for not doing enough to try and resolve the crisis in Yugoslavia and for refusing to offer membership or security guarantees to the new democracies of Eastern Europe.

NATO sources said there was growing discussion on this issue at the alliance's Brussels headquarters.

"The feeling is that people will think NATO is pointless unless we can seriously address the threat of future conflicts in Europe," said one alliance diplomat. "Working together with the CSCE, not independently of it, would be one solution."

## Rocket attacks on Croatian city kills 7

BELGRADE (R) — A rocket attack on the Croatian city of Osijek was reported to have killed seven people Sunday as U.N. officials indicated no peacekeeping troops would be sent to Yugoslavia unless there was a proper ceasefire.

Croatian radio said multiple rocket launchers had opened up overnight on Osijek, a front-line city in the eastern part of the breakaway republic, hitting both the centre of the town and outskirts.

There was no confirmation of the attack from the Yugoslav Federal Army, which along with Serbian irregulars has been besieging the town for weeks.

But the Belgrade newspaper Vecernje Novosti said six federal soldiers were killed by sniper and mortar fire near the Adriatic port of Dubrovnik Saturday despite a relative lull in the fighting.

In Belgrade, United Nations envoy Cyrus Vance neared the

end of a week-long mission to assess chances for a peacekeeping force to be sent, with U.N. officials saying it was up to the warring sides to create the conditions.

Mr. Vance, who negotiated a 14th ceasefire in the five-month conflict in Geneva two weeks ago, returns to New York Monday to report to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who must make his recommendations to the Security Council.

"We go back having pressed both sides to comply more fully with Geneva," a U.N. official said.

"The Security Council has said that it cannot envisage a peacekeeping operation without full compliance. So we can say no less," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

Twice during his visit Mr. Vance has expressed outrage over flare-ups in the fighting, once after visiting Osijek Tuesday

and again after Osijek and Dubrovnik were bombed Friday.

The army expressed regret over the attack on Dubrovnik and promised an investigation.

Mr. Vance and his aides have also said that the sides must reach agreement over the evacuation of blockaded federal army and air force barracks in Croatia. An agreement in Geneva on this has been held by a series of local disputes.

Talks were due to resume in Zagreb on the withdrawal of federal servicemen from the city's airport.

The U.N. official said that despite the continued fighting, Mr. Vance had worked out with the parties detailed plans of how a peacekeeping force would work if it were sent, including its size, area of operation and role.

"We are ready to move once the fellows here do what's required of them," he said. "The signals have to come from Yugoslavians now."

Officials said Mr. Vance would spend much of the day working on his report, but could also have a further meeting with Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic, whom he has already met three times during his trip.

They said Mr. Vance had no plans to attend a meeting of the European Community (EC) peace conference, grouping leaders of the six Yugoslav republics under the chairmanship of Britain's Lord Carrington, being held in the Hague Monday.

Arbiters appointed by the conference said Saturday that the federal state of Yugoslavia was disintegrating as a legal entity and a new association should be created.

The fighting in Yugoslavia erupted after Croatia and Slovenia declared independence in June and a Serb minority in Croatia rebelled.

## Nobel laureates see hope for detained Burmese prize winner

OSLO (R) — Former Nobel Peace Prize winners say this year's laureate, detained Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, should take heart from previous winners who witnessed the downfall of hostile regimes.

Laureates at a three-day seminar of 18 former Peace Prize winners in Oslo said the prestige of the prize would boost her morale and that of her supporters.

But it could also bring big psychological pressures.

Aung San Suu Kyi's British husband Michael Aris and their two teenage sons are to receive the prize on her behalf in Oslo Tuesday. Aung San Suu Kyi, 46, has been held under house arrest by Burma's military rulers since July 1989.

"Anyone who wins the Nobel

Peace Prize acquires a strong moral force and this will happen for her too," said former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who won in 1987 for authoring a Central American peace plan. "It helped me greatly."

Aung San Suu Kyi won this year for what the Nobel Committee called her "non-violent struggle for democracy and human

rights." The 1991 prize is a gold medal, a diploma and a cheque for about \$1 million.

Both Poland's President Lech Walesa, who won as a dissident union leader in 1983, and the late Soviet human rights campaigner Andrei Sakharov, the 1975 laureate, were unable to collect the prize in Oslo due to opposition from former Communist regimes.

## Japan repeats war regrets; U.S. marks Pearl Harbour Day

TOKYO (R) — Japan's foreign minister said Sunday his country was "deeply remorseful" for its wartime record but leading newspapers criticised the government for failing to face up squarely to the past.

An English-language statement from Michio Watanabe, the latest of several marking the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbour, said: "Japan is deep, remorseful over past actions."

The Japanese-language version said Japan "deeply reflects" on its wartime actions, using the term "hansei," meaning self-examination, reflection or introspection.

Remorse expressed clearly in Japanese would read as "kokai." The chief government spokesman used the term "hansei" Friday in his attempt to make amends for the lack of an official parliamentary apology. A Foreign Ministry official insisted the spokesman intended "hansei" to mean remorse rather than reflection.

Mr. Watanabe said the government was deeply moved by U.S. President George Bush's speech at Pearl Harbour commemorating ceremonies stressing that the time for reexamination over World War II was over.

"Japan, for its part should face squarely the historical fact that the Pacific war, which inflicted

unbearable suffering and sorrow on many people including Americans of the Asia-Pacific region, was started 50 years ago with Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbour," Mr. Watanabe said.

Japan, which overran and occupied most of South East Asia up to 1945, has never followed Germany's lead and made a clear and unambiguous apology for its war record.

Its parliament abandoned plans Friday to apologise formally for the Pearl Harbour attack. Conservatives controlling the ruling party ruled out an apology after Mr. Bush refused one for the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

"Why must we find mud at the history of Japan with our own hands? former Education Minister Masayoshi Fujio asked ruling party legislators Friday.

Newspapers Sunday criticised the government for failing to apologise and face up to its military actions in Asia up to and during the war.

Over the past week, Japanese have been bombarded by newspaper articles and television documentaries describing the events leading up to Pearl Harbour, the war years and Japan's dramatic emergence as an economic superpower.

Few referred to atrocities in China and South East Asia, facts

which are omitted from Japanese textbooks.

The Education Ministry, which screens all textbooks, upholds the conservative view that Japan was not solely responsible for the war. Ministry censors gloss over or omit unpalatable accounts of the war.

War veterans, some wearing the fading uniforms of the imperial army, streamed to Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine under grey skies Sunday to pay their respects to the dead.

"I'm not here to commemorate Pearl Harbour," said one silver-haired veteran. "For me it's a day to remember my fellow soldiers who fell in battle."

Opposition leader Makoto Tanabe later delivered the apology the government has avoided. "I want to express my deepest sorrow for all those who died and all those who suffered... for the more than 20 million casualties in the Asia-Pacific countries and (among) the allied powers," said Mr. Tanabe, head of the largest opposition Socialist Party.

He told some 2,000 people at a symposium on Pearl Harbour that Japan should admit it forcibly annexed Korea and that its troops slaughtered up to 300,000 people, mostly civilians, in the Chinese Nationalist capital now known as Nanjing.

"Japan must recognise the facts as facts and sincerely apologise for her war crimes," Mr. Tanabe said.

Meanwhile in Pearl Harbour, the "day of infamy," Dec. 7, 1941, when Japanese planes rained bombs on Pearl Harbour and killed more than 2,000 people, became a day of tears and forgiveness on the 50th anniversary of the attack on the U.S. navy base.

At events marking the occasion, the stage was dominated by dignitaries, U.S. President George Bush and his wife Barbara, Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney, and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Colin Powell.

But the moment belonged to the about 5,000 or so U.S. survivors of the devastating attack, who sat with heads bowed and tears in their eyes as they recalled the nightmare and their fallen comrades.

At precisely 7:55 a.m. Saturday, exactly 50 years after the first bomb was dropped in 1941, the island of Oahu, where Pearl Harbour is situated, fell silent for a full minute.

In the fashionable resort of Waikiki Beach, and in downtown Honolulu, tourists stopped and bowed their heads in remembrance.

Mr. Bush, himself a decorated World War II hero who at the age of 18 became America's youngest

navy pilot and flew 58 combat missions against Japanese targets in the Pacific, made a series of emotionally charged speeches at which he stressed the time for reconciliation was over.

"As I thought back to that day of infamy and the loss of friends, I wondered what will my reaction be when I go back to Pearl Harbour. What will their reaction be, the other old veterans, especially those who survived that terrible day, right here," Mr. Bush said in his final speech on a pier overlooking the harbour.

"Let me tell you how I feel. I have no remorse in my heart toward Germany or Japan, not at all. And I hope, in spite of the loss, that you have none in yours."

"This is no time for recrimination. World War II is over. It is history. We won. We crushed totalitarianism, and when that was done, we helped our enemies give birth to democracies," he added, to the applause of the audience of nearly 5,000 of the survivors.

Earlier, in a ceremony that brought tears to the eyes of Barbara Bush, the Bushes threw two leis — wreaths made of orchids — in to the waters above the USS Arizona.

The battleship suffered the greatest number of deaths, 1,177, in the attack and has become a symbol of that day's carnage. The

bodies of 954 men who went down with the Arizona when it sank remain in their watery grave.

The ship, whose deck lies just two feet below the surface of the water, is now a national cemetery and memorial. Some survivors and other ex-servicemen have elected to have their remains buried there.

"As we look down at the Arizona's sunken hull — tomb to more than 1,000 Americans — the beguiling calm comforts us, reminds us of the night of ideals that inspire boys to die as men," Mr. Bush said, his voice breaking.

Earlier, as dawn broke, Mr. Bush led a solemn ceremony in an extinct volcano crater known as the Punchbowl, site of a military cemetery where 13,000 U.S. war dead are buried.

Mr. Bush also used the occasion to apologise for U.S. internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II, saying the American cause in the war was just and honourable but not every U.S. action was fair.

In his last speech, he raised the subject again, saying, "in remembering, it is important to come to grips with the past. No nation can fully understand itself, or find its place in the world, if it does not look with clear eyes at all the glories — and disgraces, too — of the past."

## COLUMN

### Glacier man at least 4,600 years old

VIENNA (R) — Radio-carbon dating tests show that the well-preserved body of an ancient hunter found in an Alpine glacier is between 4,600 and 4,800 years old, an Austrian scientist said. "He was from the end of the Neolithic period," said Professor Klaus Oeggl of the University of Innsbruck's Botanical Institute. Prof. Oeggl's part in solving the riddle of the "ice man," as the mummy dubbed the mummified corpse found two months ago, came in when grasses found in the body's clothing were sent in a cross-checking study to two different universities. Prof. Oeggl got the results from Paris and Sweden's Uppsala University. "We can rely on these measurements. They were taken from the same material, that is grasses, that made up a test sample. The sample was halved, one part sent to Uppsala and the other to Paris. Prof. Oeggl told Reuters. "From these two laboratories we have two sets of data which coincide exactly." Prof. Oeggl said the body was the oldest and best specimen of early man ever found. "From such an age, in such a state of preservation, there has never been anything like this," he said. The corpse was still covered with skin, tanned to leather by the winds and frozen inside the ice. Tattoos were visible on the hunter's back.

### New Orleans clubs face Mardi Gras ban

NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana (R) — A New Orleans city councillor is trying to bar from the city's Mardi Gras parades any group that excludes people because of race, religion or sex. Barely a month after a virulent election for state governor in which former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke won the majority of the white vote, New Orleans has become engulfed in debate over the nation's biggest annual party. A bill proposed by councilwoman Dorothy Mae Taylor would deny parade permits to several societies which hold lavish processions during the Mardi Gras carnival season and whose members are mostly white, male Christians. The bill would also open the doors of the group's private clubs by redefining them as public because of the business activities that occur there. The city council will vote on the issue on Dec. 19. Blacks and women want access to the carnival parades, while the societies say the council has no right to dictate membership policy to private clubs. If the bill is passed, some of the clubs, called Krewe, have threatened to cancel their parades or to take them to suburban areas where the ban does not apply. Carnival season in New Orleans ends with Mardi Gras the eve of the Christian fasting period of Lent that starts next year in March. It is the city's greatest tourist attraction and draws hundreds of thousands of revelers.

### Beethoven manuscript fetches record price

LONDON (R) — An autographed Beethoven manuscript sold for a record £1.1 million (\$1.98 million), Sotheby's auction house said. The Piano Sonata in E Minor was bought by London dealer Otto Haas from an anonymous seller. The 28-page manuscript bears the German composer's autograph and inscription, and signature with the date Aug. 16 1814 and the name Wien (Vienna). Sotheby's said the price was a record for a manuscript of a single work. The previous record of £800,000 (\$1.42 million) was set for a Schumann piano concerto manuscript sold in 1989 and matched by the sale of a Mozart manuscript last year. The Beethoven price was also the second highest for a music manuscript of any sort, a Sotheby's spokeswoman said. It is exceeded only by the £2.35 million (\$4.15 million) paid for a manuscript of nine Mozart symphonies in 1987.

### Teenager gets 90 days in jail for poisoning teacher

DETROIT (R) — An 18-year-old was sentenced to three months in jail and three months at home under surveillance for poisoning a teacher by spilling coffee with the hallucinogenic drug LSD. Linda Marie Condit was found guilty on Oct. 30 of the felony charge of poisoning English teacher Robert Hoffmann's coffee last December. Oakland county district judge Deborah Tyner could have given Condit up to five years in jail but decided instead on the smaller jail sentence and three years' probation. Condit will be allowed out of jail to finish school and work.